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PRAYERS

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including Morning and Evening Services for Five Sundays; Services for Special Occasions; for the Administration of the Sacraments; for the Visitation of the Sick, etc.; with Passages from the Gospels and Epistles Selected for Liturgical Use

BY

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PREFACE

THIS volume is not a compilation from other published sources, but a selection from the devotional services which the author has prepared for his own use during a ministry of thirty-eight years. They are published in the hope that they may be useful to other ministers.

Though they have been shaped in a Presbyterian Church, they will, no doubt, so far as they are an adequate expression of religious thought and emotion, readily adapt themselves with a few verbal changes to the conditions and usages of Churches which are not Presbyterian. In prayer at least all the Churches are one.

Rubrics have been given for the Morning and Evening Services of the First Sunday of the Month and for some of the Special Services. The peremptoriness of tone belongs to the Rubric form of expression and not to any wish of the author to dictate to other ministers how they should conduct a Service.

In general character the Evening Services will be found to differ from the Morning ones. They begin and end differently; they are more meditative and devotional; music is more prominent; statements of Christian doctrine, usually in the words of our Lord, are put in the place and are given the emphasis which are their due,—this last a small innovation which seems less discordant from

use and wont than the recital of a Creed however ancient, authoritative, and orthodox.

Every minister knows the difficulty of making visits to the sick really effective for their purpose. In seeking to avoid mere generalities in prayer, one is in danger of making crude and untactful references to special features of the sufferer's trouble. What is offered here may occasionally afford hints and reminders.

The author wishes very warmly to express his gratitude to the Rev. Richard Bell, B.D., of Wamphray, for encouragements and helpful criticisms without which he would never have completed a task on which many years ago he set his heart.

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FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Morning Service

When the minister enters the pulpit he shall repeat the following or other verses.

As for me, in the multitude of thy lovingkindness will I come into thy house; in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

I will wash mine hands in innocency; so will I compass thine altar, O Lord.

Our soul hath waited for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.

With thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

He shall then say, Let us pray.

Almighty God our heavenly Father whom none but the pure of heart can know; keep us this day without sin we beseech thee, shelter us from the strain and clamour of common cares, open our minds to the truths and inspirations of the Gospel, through the exercises of public worship unite us with all them that serve thee in truth and sincerity, and so cause thy presence to abide with us that our worship may be of the spirit and the fruit of it eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The congregation shall sing Amen.

He shall then say, The metrical psalm is number . . . at the . . . verse, tune . . .

After the psalm has been sung he shall say, Let us pray.

O God infinite and eternal who knowest not weariness nor failure; have compassion on thy weak and rebellious children returning to thee disappointed and sad of heart to ask forgiveness and the renewal of faith and courage.

The world which we have sought has mocked and deceived us. Its yoke has been cruel and its burden heavy. We have run after its pleasures and found them vanity. We have struck at its evils and wounded ourselves. We have given our strength for that which is not bread and our labour for that which satisfieth not.

Gracious Father whose mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings and deeper than all sin; receive back unto thyself thy bewildered and broken children. Forgive our riot and excess, our coldness to human sorrows, our envy of the ungodly when they prosper and are at ease, our passion for the things of the moment that perish in the grasping, our indifference to those treasures of the spirit which are life and peace, our neglect of thy wise and gracious laws; and so change our hearts and turn all our desires unto thyself that we may love that which thou approvest, and do that which thou commandest, and with strength and resolution walk in uprightness and charity, to the serving of our brethren, the saving of our souls, and the glory of thy name.

Grant us humility and patience to build up again that which we have broken down and to gather that which we have scattered.

For ignorance give us the light of thy Word which maketh wise unto salvation, for coldness and disobedience, fellowship with those who follow the Lord Jesus in humility and self denial, for the fears and anxieties of the passing hour, a confident expectation of thy heavenly kingdom, and for our loneliness, a place in the household of faith.

Save and deliver us, O merciful Father, for the worthiness of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

O give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name; make known his doings among the peoples. Glory ye in his holy name; let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

Most gracious Father who withholdest no good thing from thy children and in thy providence hast brought us to this day of rest and of the renewal of the soul; we give thee humble and hearty thanks for the world which thou hast prepared and furnished for our dwelling-place, for the steadfast righteousness which suffers no evil thing to gain the mastery, for the lives and examples of those who were strangers and pilgrims and found a better inheritance in peace of soul and joy in the Holy Ghost, and above all for the life, teaching and sacrifice of thy Son our Savour Jesus Christ;

For the daily round of customary duties also we thank thee, for friends and kindred, and for that larger home which we find in the society of those seen and unseen, who have loved thee and served their brethren, for the various prosperities that gladden us, and for the disappointments which remind us that here we have no abiding city;

We thank thee also for the manifold ministries of thy helpful spirit, for the joy that comes unbidden when our hearts are sad, for the various encouragements that come unsought when the way is long, for the pain that comes unwelcomed when we fall away from thee, and for the assurance of unseen aids in every time of our need;

And we beseech thee, most loving and patient Father, so to make effectual in us thy will for our salvation that we, confiding in thy lovingkindness, may henceforward live in purity, meekness and self-denial, continually reaching up toward the stature of a perfect humanity in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most gracious Father who art never far away from any of us and art found of them that diligently seek thee; send forth thy light and cause the Gospel of thy Son to shine so gloriously in the night and confusion of our wanderings, that in all conflicts we may know what is good and pursue it, in the glare of prosperity may be watchful, in weariness may refresh our spirits with devotion, in dubiety may seek thy guidance, in sorrow may remain in the company of him who was sorrowful even unto death, and at all hours may be willing and obedient servants of thy will with loins girt and lamps burning prepared for every word which thou mayst speak.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

The Congregation shall sing Amen.

The Minister shall then say, The Old Testament Lesson is taken from the Book of . . . (or, from the Book

of the Prophet . . .), the . . . chapter, from the . . . verse.

At the end of the Old Testament Lesson the Congregation shall sing, Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, and blessed be his glorious name, for ever and ever.

Where these words are said and not sung, the Congregation shall sing Amen.

The Minister shall then say, The Prose Psalm is number . . ., the Chant number . . .

After the Prose Psalm has been sung he shall say, The New Testament Lesson is taken from the Gospel according to St . . ., or, from the Epistle, etc., the . . . chapter, from the . . . verse.

At the end of the New Testament Lesson the Congregation shall sing, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of thy glory: glory be to thee, O Lord most high: *or the Minister shall say*,

May God bless to us the reading of his Word to our upbuilding in grace and charity, and to his name be glory and praise; *and the Congregation shall sing* Amen.

The Minister shall then say, The hymn is number . . .

After the hymn has been sung he shall say, Let us pray.

Almighty God our heavenly Father who hast given thy Word for our instruction; grant that the scripture which we have now read being rightly apprehended and loyally obeyed may purify our affections, direct our wills, and attain in us its perfect end in a wise and godly life.

O God loving and patient who through the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hast set us free from the law of sin

and death; continue we beseech thee and bring to full completion that good work in us which thou hast already begun, till at all hours and in every deed and thought we live and move and have our being in thee.

For the peace that is from above and for the salvation of our souls we beseech thee, O gracious Father;

That it may please thee to write thy law in our hearts and to give us a steadfast and enduring purpose to fulfil it in our lives;

That it may please thee to succour us in our temptations, to comfort us in loneliness and distress, and to further us in whatsoever we do or resolve according to thy will.

For the throne, government, and people of this Kingdom and Empire of Britain we beseech thee, O gracious Father;

That it may please thee in long life and usefulness to preserve our sovereign Lord King George, her gracious Majesty Queen Mary, Alexandra the Queen Mother, Edward Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family;

That it may please thee abundantly to bestow upon the King's Ministers [and the Houses of Parliament now met (about to meet)] wisdom, courage, and judgment, and so to direct them by thy counsel that their deliberations and decrees may clearly speak forth thy will and faithfully embody the deeper mind of a free and generous people;

That it may please thee to make the Judges so loyal and upright, and so to enrich them with insight and sympathy that throughout the whole Empire they may be strong bulwarks of justice and refuges for the oppressed;

That it may please thee to prosper the efforts of Governors and Magistrates, especially of the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of this City (Rulers of this Parish and County) for the health, comfort and welfare of the people ;

That it may please thee to defend all religious and just persons in affliction, danger and clamour, to make thy loving-kindness known in all the earth, and to set thy truth above all thrones.

For the Church of thy Son, broken and in discord by reason of our many infirmities we beseech thee, O gracious Father ;

That it may please thee to deliver all communities of Christian folk from envy, strife and every evil work, and to bestow on them that wisdom from above which is pure, peaceable, gentle and full of mercy and good fruits ;

That it may please thee to cause the Gospel of thy Son to go forth in such power and majesty that the gods which are no gods may be brought to confusion, and that those, thy blinded children who worship them in ignorance, turning to the true light, may seek justice, piety, brotherly-kindness, charity, righteousness and peace ;

That it may please thee to make thy Word so persuasive on the lips of Christian ministers and in the hearts of both ministers and people that both they that speak and they that hear being fully instructed in the way of eternal life may also be examples of wise and godly living.

For sick and distressed persons and for such as are

dwelling in empty and desolate homes we beseech thee, O gracious Father ;

That it may please thee to uphold, comfort, and sustain them, and to give them so full a confidence in thy wise and kind providences that putting their only trust in thee they may be steadfast, and may endure to the end, abiding in that peace which passeth all understanding ;

For the sick of this Congregation (and for one who is in sore distress) we beseech thee O gracious Father ;

That it may please thee to uphold (*him* and) them in the Valley of the Shadow, to prosper the means of their healing, and in thy good time to grant them the victory.

Cause, O gracious Father we beseech thee, the pure light of thy divine knowledge to shine forth in our hearts and open our minds to receive thy Son's Gospel ; plant in us also the fear of thy commandments ; and grant that, overcoming all carnal affections, we may obtain a heavenly citizenship, saying and doing always such things as are well-pleasing in thy sight, O Lord, the light of our souls and our Redeemer.

Our Father, etc.

The Minister shall then say, The Anthem is number . . ., *or,* The Te Deum (or other hymn) is number . . . in the Anthem Book (or Psalter, or Hymnary).

Then follows the Sermon which shall conclude with the following or other Ascription ;

Now unto him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy ; to the only wise God our Saviour,

be glory and majesty, dominion and power, for ever and ever.

The Congregation shall sing Amen.

The Minister shall then say, Let us pray.

Almighty and most loving Father who through the various ministries of prayer, praise, and reading of the Word hast raised our minds this morning above common distractions and cares and brought us into communion with thyself; grant that during the days of strain and of worldly business which approach we may not lose the vision and the consecration of the sanctuary, but may live as those who look for a larger faith and tenderer piety for ourselves, and for the crowning revelation to all mankind of thy grace and power through the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Congregation shall sing Amen.

Then the Intimations shall be read out and the Offertory shall be taken.

Then the Minister shall say, The Hymn (or Psalm) is number . . .

After the singing of the Hymn or Psalm he shall pronounce the Benediction.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us now and abide with us for ever.

The Congregation shall sing Amen. Amen. Amen.

Evening Service

The Service shall begin with the Choir singing the following or other short Anthem;

O Light everlasting,
As falleth the ev'ning
Gently and silently,
Hear us and bless us,
Jesus our Saviour.

Then the Minister shall say, Let us pray.

Almighty and most compassionate Father whom we seek and partly find, but cannot find unto perfection; grant us so constant a faith in thy goodwill to mankind and in thy unfailing guardianship that ever when the sun goes down and the ways divide we may wait and watch, and when the light comes again may arise and follow whithersoever it may lead. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps; in thy way lead us O God, by thy power sustain us, and bring us at last to the full knowledge of thy grace and truth in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Metrical Psalm, or Hymn.

Prayer.

O God gracious and long-suffering, just and loving mercy; in thy great pitifulness look upon the afflictions of thy servants and pardon our many transgressions.

For the sins and faults of youth, for our pride and self-sufficiency, and for that wisdom which worketh not the good of thy creatures, have mercy upon us, O God, we humbly entreat thee.

For the envy and strife in which we have lived, and for our selfish enjoyment of thy bounties while others were in want, have mercy upon us, O God, we humbly entreat thee.

For the sorrows which brought no softening of heart, for the chastenings which yielded no peaceable fruit of righteousness, and for the rebukes of conscience which led to no amendment of life, have mercy upon us, O God, we humbly entreat thee.

For the counsels of thy Word we have known and not loved, for the Gospel of thy Son we have believed and not obeyed, and for the leading of the spirit of truth we have acknowledged and not followed, have mercy upon us, O God, we humbly entreat thee.

Almighty and most loving Father who, if we know and confess our sins, art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness; pardon and restore thy repentant children and grant that being re-born through the Gospel of thy Son we may henceforward live in sincerity and humbleness of mind, in charity and uprightness, in loyalty and devotion, waiting and working for the final revelation of thy truth and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Whatsoever ungracious thoughts or acts we have been guilty of during the day that is now drawing to a close and whatsoever causes of offence we have unwittingly or heedlessly given we beseech thee to recall to our memories ere we sleep that we may repent and make atonement that the sun go not down on our folly.

Grant thy servants peace, O God, and the joy of thy salvation.

Whatsoever we have wisely done or thought and what-

soever we have piously and in the fear of thee resolved we beseech thee to prosper and bring to a happy issue.

Quicken, O God, the seeds which thou hast planted and cause them to bring forth much fruit.

For the time to come of our lives save us we beseech thee from contempt of thy laws, from neglect of thine ordinances, from doubt of thy loving-kindness, and from every happiness that is unsanctified by thee, and so increase in us inward clearness and fortitude that with open minds beholding thy wonders and with pure hearts seeking those things which are worthiest and best we may lead blameless and useful lives in the service of thy blessed and holy kingdom.

Enlighten and direct thy servants, O God, and perfect us according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Old Testament Lesson.

Prose Psalm.

New Testament Lesson.

Hymn.

Prayer.

Almighty and most gracious Father who, for our discipline in charity and all virtue, hast united us in manifold ties of family and of friendship; grant that those spiritual and temporal benefits which we enjoy or desire for ourselves we may no less earnestly desire for our kinsfolk, friends, neighbours and fellow-citizens. Be thou a guard, O God, this night around their as around our dwellings, enrich them inwardly with the knowledge of thyself, prosper them in all their lawful undertakings, and

evermore keep both them and us in obedience, humility, long-suffering, and the true faith of the Gospel.

For the oppressed of all lands we with all Christian people throughout the world beseech thee that the knowledge of thy will for mankind may come to them in their hard servitude bringing hope and courage and a striving for happier things and that resolutely and in thy fear they may shake off their chains and the terrors of the night to become strong and wise in the justice, freedom and joy which thou hast decreed for thy children.

For such as are distressed with worldly cares or with grief of heart we beseech thee that turning to him who though he was rich became poor for us they may find in love and its works a better treasure than the world can give.

For sick and afflicted persons, for such as linger on in a life without joy or hope, and especially for any who are appointed unto death we beseech thee that inward peace and patience may be increased in them, that quiet sleep this night may refresh their weariness, and that they may spend all their days hereafter, whether few or many, in thy service and in the fellowship of him who was dead and liveth for ever, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For ourselves as for them we beseech thee that when the parting hour comes we may fall asleep in the assured expectation of a glad awakening.

O God our ever gracious Father in heaven under whose wise and equal rule the whole race of mankind offend and suffer, repent and are forgiven, and are often bewildered for lack of knowledge; give such persuasion to thy Word which maketh wise unto salvation that they who are made in thine image, wherever they be, may cease

to live in folly, to labour to their own hurt, and to die without hope; and grant O Almighty Father that receiving the Gospel as it is in thy Son they may be delivered from their evil dreams and from the traditions of a time of ignorance, to serve thee in uprightness and holiness, evermore setting their hearts on the best things, and by thy grace being enabled to bring to a happy conclusion whatsoever good work they purpose; to their exceeding great reward in the day when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed and the faithful shall be brought into the joy of their Lord.

These things we beg of thee for the worthiness of thy Son who also taught us thus to pray;

The Congregation shall repeat the Lord's Prayer.

Then The Minister shall say,

Attend to the words of our Jesus Christ given for our instruction,

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

(*For other suitable passages from the New Testament see pp.* 68 *and* 69.)

Then the Congregation shall sing,

Cause thy light to arise upon us and lead us in the right way we humbly entreat thee, O Lord.

The Minister shall then repeat one of the Gospel Collects as found on pp. 70-77, *the Congregation singing* Amen.

Anthem.

Sermon *concluding with the following or other Ascription,*

Now unto the God of all grace who hath called us unto truth and virtue by Christ Jesus be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

The Congregation shall sing Amen.

Prayer of Self-Consecration.

Almighty God who orderest the changing seasons and sendest alternate day and night making a varied life for all thy creatures and for man; as to our waking minds thou hast been present this day in the reading of thy Word and worship of thy house, so through the still hours that now approach continue to be with us a silent guardian, and if it be thy gracious will renew our strength as thou renewest the face of the earth with morning light and morning gladness and grant that with a happy spirit we may go forth again to our work and to our labour until the evening, working in that whereunto we are called and through labour and trust perfecting our fellowship with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

The Congregation shall sing Amen.

Intimations and Offertory.

Psalm or Hymn.

The Benediction.

The peace of God which passeth all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of

God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us now and abide with us for ever.

The Congregation shall sing Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Service shall conclude with the following or other Vesper hymn,

Lord, keep us safe this night,
Secure from all our fears ;
May angels guard us while we sleep,
Till morning light appears.

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Morning Service

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

O God who appointest all things to a destined and holy end and requirest of man a reasonable service; quicken in us we beseech thee the sense of a gracious presence and power in the world, of a providence that never slumbers, of a love that never fails, and so unite us with thyself in our aspirations and thoughts that with our whole might doing those things which please thee we may live in thy

favour and in that light which ever broadens to the perfect day.

Keep us this day, we beseech thee, without fear, without sin, without distrust, and through meditation and prayer prepare us for another week of faithful labour and generous service of our brethren; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Prayer—Confession and Thanksgiving.

Almighty and most gracious Father long-suffering and unfailing in mercy and steadfastness; grant us grace to return to thee penitently, not covering our sins nor excusing our ineffectual and unwilling service, but seeking to see our lives and to know ourselves in the light of thy Word and of the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We have been rebellious and disobedient children and unprofitable servants, have resisted the better impulses of our own hearts, have broken thy holy and compassionate laws, have refused the cross of Christ, have received thy gifts without gratitude, and have lived with our brethren in envy and strife.

We bring to thee the sins thou alone canst pardon, the ignorance thou alone canst dispel, the weariness thou alone canst refresh, the wounds thou alone canst heal. From thee alone cometh our salvation.

Almighty God through obedience to whom every adverse experience turns to strength and patience; inwardly enlighten us we beseech thee, continually fortify those resolves which sustain the soul in times of distress and famine, rekindle faith in us when the way is dark, and so unveil to us thy heavenly kingdom, hidden from the selfish and impure, that through our continuance in

well-doing we may become tried and efficient servants of thy purposes and good soldiers of Jesus Christ in all endurance, courage and hardihood.

Almighty God who hast made us in thine image to be partakers of thy counsels and fellow-workers with thy Son; we thank thee for the open door which every day affords of doing good and hindering evil, of comforting sorrow and resisting wrong, of bringing our natures subject to thy will, and of growing up to the stature of a perfect humanity in Jesus Christ our Lord; also we thank thee for those wise and courageous men who are still with us to be lights in the world and leaders in the fight, and for memories of that innumerable company, known to us and unknown, who have already gone to their reward; we thank thee also for the hope that being guided by thy grace through all perplexities and by thy strong defence upheld in the dangers which beset us at every step we may at the last with all them that have lived in faith and sincerity be presented blameless before the presence of thy glory with exceeding joy through their Saviour and ours, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and most bountiful Father who out of thy treasure-houses bestowest all good things upon them that diligently seek thee; for blind and wandering desires give us a steadfast purpose of both knowing and doing thy will, for the bondage of envious thoughts that kindly service of love which is perfect freedom, for cares and griefs that confidence in thy power and goodness which conquers every fear, and for our many disquietudes that peace which no gift of fortune can either give or take away: and grant O most merciful Father that we may

so work and suffer in the things appointed us that through our patience and well-doing that which is evil may be destroyed and that which is lawless be subdued to the order of thy wisdom, and that finding our life in thee we may grow in faith and endurance and finally attain the blessedness of thy kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God who hast made all things for man and man for thyself; dispose our hearts to a right use of the world and to such constant dependence upon thy wisdom that those things which are against us may through thy grace and our humility be turned to our advantage and become the means of our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Third Prayer—Intercessions.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him; to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry and will save them.

Hear our prayer, O Lord,

For this land of ancient laws and liberty, that thy favour may rest upon it, and enrich it, and cause it to bring forth yet richer harvests than ever our fathers knew, of faith and true religion, of knowledge and industry, of brotherly kindness and the fear of thy name;

Also for our sovereign Lord the King that he may be blessed in his family and in his throne, may follow the examples of wise and godly princes and be the joy and strength of his people;

Hear us, O God, and have mercy upon us:

For the King's Ministers (and the Houses of Parliament now met (about to meet)), we beseech thee, that they may diligently consider the varied needs of rich and poor and in the fear of thee without other fear do what is just and right and for the safety and honour of the land;

For the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of this City (Rulers of this Parish and County) and for all other Judges and Administrators we beseech thee, that they with unfailing courage and discernment may wisely and effectually reform abuses, remove causes of discord, and by their devotion to the affairs committed to their governance cause thorns and briers to spring up in all the ways of evil-doers and be a praise to them that do well;

Also we beseech thee for the younger nations that have carried British blood and its proud memories to alien lands under summer and under winter skies, that they with a loyal affection may cherish whatever is great and nobly inspired in the land of their origin and add new glories to its renown;

Hear us, O God, and have mercy upon us:

For all the cities, nations and governments of mankind we beseech thee, that as thou hast made and appointed them not for pride and rivalry but for the just and prosperous ordering of their several Commonwealths, so they being faithful in their high trusts may labour to dispel ignorance and overcome violence within their borders, and through their considerate and tolerant policies confirm and extend the realm of peace and prepare the triumph of thy kingdom;

Hear us, O God, and have mercy upon us:

For the poor, the uninstructed and the lawless we

beseech thee, that their sorrows in their several kinds may be brought to the light and healed ;

Also for schools and universities we beseech thee, that seeking truth and noble ways of living they may send forth many children of the light to do valiantly and to quell the powers of darkness ;

Hear us, O God, and have mercy upon us :

For all who follow the Lord Jesus in his humility we beseech thee, that they may seek the things that endure, and that their good deeds may shine forth for the comfort and guidance of them that know thee not ;

(For this Parish and Congregation we beseech thee, that the word of life and of hope being powerfully and persuasively spoken here may lead many to know their Saviour and best Friend, and that thy servant to whom thou hast appointed the ministry of the Word and Sacraments may be led into all truth, and being surrounded by godly and sincere helpers may accomplish the task which thou hast given and be a workman not needing to be ashamed at the great day) ;

Hear us, O God, and have mercy upon us :

For the sick we beseech thee and especially for those whom we now name in our hearts to thee, that loving hearts and skilful hands may minister to them in their need, that the light of the Cross may be upon them through the darkness, and that a voice may be heard in the silence saying, Peace I leave with you ;

For those who yearn for faces that will never smile upon them again we beseech thee, that taking up the burden of empty days with courage and trusting where they cannot see they may through patience and the

promises of the Gospel attain that peace of mind and quietness of spirit which is the perfect fruit of their trial;

Hear us, O God, and have mercy upon us:

For those who pause on the threshold of life and hear the battle from afar we beseech thee, that they may gird themselves about with truth and have righteousness for a breastplate and go forth to suffer and overcome at thy call in the name of Christ the lowly and loving one;

For those also we beseech thee who are bearing the burden and heat of the day exulting in their strength of hand or of brain, that they not being corrupted by lust of temporal things but with a pure conscience seeking thy favour may through their strong help and sympathy make the places joyous wherever they come;

We beseech thee also for those who among the lengthening shadows of evening are preparing for the long night, that, by thy grace assisting them, they may withdraw well-satisfied from the mortal strife, content to leave their incomplete achievement with thee, and looking forward without fear may be able to say, O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?

For all mankind we beseech thee that they may know the truth and do thy will according to their several endowments and callings.

Hear us, O God, and have mercy upon us for the worthiness of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ who also taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, etc.

Fourth Prayer—of Consecration.

Almighty God who through ever-changing joys and griefs art shaping us for thyself and moulding the world to thy will; evermore increase in us we beseech thee the love of truth and of thy Son our supreme teacher and best friend, and give us so great steadfastness of will and of purpose that those things which we know to be right and just we may unhesitatingly do, and in good report and evil may walk resolutely in the true way of life set forth in the Gospel; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Glory be to the Father, etc.
Amen.

Evening Service

Opening Collect.

Almighty God who dwellest in light unapproachable, whom no man hath seen nor can see; grant that we may know thee in him whom thou hast given to be the light of the world, our Saviour Jesus Christ, and in the joy of his Gospel may worship thee in spirit and truth. Amen.

Second Prayer—Confession and Thanksgiving.

O God gracious and long-suffering who delightest in mercy and willest that all should return unto thee and live; pardon, we beseech thee, our many slack and empty hours, our distrust of thee, our impatience under thy rebukes, the evil we have done, the good we have left

undone, and all the manifold transgressions of which our consciences are afraid, and grant us grace to live henceforward in charity, obedience and devout submission to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

From the entanglement of selfish and ignoble cares deliver us, O God; from anger and violent desires defend us; in the better and happier ways of faith, generosity and well-doing direct us by thy gracious spirit.

We have loved the world and the things of the world; turn our eyes away from seeing vanity and set our hearts on the things which are eternal.

We have sought the applause of men and lived in fear of their reproach; so instruct us in the truth and so uphold us inwardly by thy helpful spirit that we may seek thee first and serve thee only and fill our days with acts of tenderness and self-denial.

We have loved our own pleasures and lived in strife and envy; grant us a meek and compassionate temper, patience with the perverse, sympathy with all mankind, and a resolute purpose of following the example of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most gracious Father who hast brought us home to thyself from the far land of our wanderings and made us sons and daughters of the house; grant that we may live in reverence, obedience and worship toward thee, in long-suffering and brotherly-kindness with one another, and that through our godly living we may prove in ourselves and manifest to others the power and joy of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and most bountiful Father who bestowest on thy children all things that tend to their perfecting;

we thank thee for this day of rest and peaceful reflection, for its hallowed memories and pious usages, for the opportunity of again recalling thy mighty acts wrought for our deliverance in far-off days and thy daily recurring mercies, for the ordinance of public worship, for the consciousness of a common faith and the joy of a common hope; we thank thee also for those who in many lands were wise in counsel, valiant in action, and witnesses of thy grace and truth, especially for those who suffered in days of storm and calamity; for those also we thank thee who have passed into the unseen country loving us still and being still beloved, and for those who still with us share the sunlight and gloom of the earthly pilgrimage; and we beseech thee that they and we, one in faith and charity, may be one also in expecting the day of gladness and peace when the whole world shall find in thee their guardian and friend, and in the cross of thy Son healing for all their sorrows.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Third Prayer—Intercessions.

Almighty God who hast set mankind everywhere in families and tribes that each may receive and give aid, discipline and society, and hast also caused great kingdoms and empires to arise in honour and splendour to be treasure houses of knowledge and justice; of thy mercy and for the safety and welfare of mankind rebuke and restrain all such as pervert the order of thy beneficence to purposes of domination and tyranny; give counsel and thy divine furtherance to such as make thy will prevail in the homes, industries and policies of the nations; clothe kings and legislators with righteousness as with a garment; give

to the judges wisdom and integrity ; and unite all orders and classes of the people in bonds of knowledge, loyalty and religion. Bring harmony into the workshops of this and of every country, and so noble a rivalry in the service of their several communities that each man being his brother's helper, wealth and security may greatly increase. Set truth in the hearts of all writers and leaders of the people and deliver them from the clamour of the streets to be steadfast witnesses of thy larger purposes with mankind.

Gracious Father who willest that all should know thee in the face of Jesus Christ and in purity of heart and charity of life should follow his blessed and holy example ; grant such increase of sincerity, meekness, courage and compassion to Christian people everywhere and to the Christian Church that they and it, being in all their thoughts and deeds shining examples of the Gospel, may draw many to the truth that know thee not, confirm them that are in doubt, and bring in the day when Christ shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied.

Almighty God who hast compassion on thy many children who by reason of bodily disease or distress of mind or wilfulness of temper are overborne and in misery ; send forth ever more abundantly the blessed and conquering spirits of knowledge and skill, of justice and the fear of thee, that they possessing the hearts and minds of Doctors, Teachers, Magistrates and all to whom power belongeth may strongly prevail against disease, ignorance, disorder and tyranny and bring into thy heavenly and eternal kingdom them that now dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

These things we beg of thee for the worthiness of Jesus Christ our Lord who also taught us thus to pray: Our Father, etc.

Fourth Prayer—Collect after Gospel (*see pp.* 70–77).

Fifth Prayer—of Self-Consecration.

Almighty God, Lord and Creator of all, who hast made the light and the sun and the glory of the world; grant us that better light which is the knowledge of thyself and that truer life which is the obedience of thy holy laws, and so sustain us with the hope of thy heavenly kingdom that in the pleasant days of our experience we may know inwardly a joy which no worldly success can give and no worldly misfortune take away, in every time of gloom a peace which passeth all understanding, and at our last hour when all things close in night may awake there where Christ is gone who is our light and life.

O God in whom is no darkness at all lighten us inwardly we beseech thee, guide us through the darkness and distress of the present and bring us to the light eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory, etc.

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Morning Service

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God to walk in his laws.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Almighty God Creator and Lord of all who by the rising of the sun dost renew the earth morning by morning and wake it to thy praise making glad the creatures of thy care; so also by the shining of thy Word and worship of thy house dispel the fears and loneliness which are our misery when we are apart from thee, open our eyes to the glory and power of the things which thou hast made, increase our faith, and make us glad in the Gospel of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Second Prayer—Confession and Thanksgiving.

Lord of all might and compassion who knowest our frame and rememberest how weak we are; we humbly confess and bewail the evil we have done and our weariness in well-doing, the vows we have broken, the duties we have refused, the hours that have lightly sped unmarked by any gracious deed, the fields untilled which proclaim us idle and unprofitable servants, and all our many transgressions, short-comings and offences.

Memories of a distracted and perverse life rise up against us to dim the joy of thy infinite and untiring beneficence.

Have compassion on our unworthiness we beseech thee; because thou delightest in mercy and willest our good always, create in us a sincere desire of whatsoever things are true, just, honourable, pure, and of good report; mould us inwardly to thy will; so unite us with thyself in love and confidence that whatsoever thou bestowest we may gratefully use, whatsoever thou withholdest we may cheerfully resign, and whatsoever thou

commandest we may diligently perform; and grant, O gracious Father, that throughout our whole lives hereafter we may continue in innocency of thought, in purity of deed, and in devout service of thy heavenly kingdom, to be in the end more than conquerors through him who loved us and gave himself that we might not die but live.

From a selfish or arrogant use of thy works and from forgetting of thee the Creator; from unworthy conceptions of thy divine majesty; from contempt of things sacred and worthy of reverence; from a mind careless of the heavenly and eternal kingdom; from neglect of thy worship and ordinances; from a worldly temper; from self-sufficiency and from ingratitude to our benefactors; from wrath, malice and vindictiveness; from impure desires and from the lust of the flesh; from avarice and injustice; from falsehood and evil-speaking; and from an envious and grudging spirit; we beseech thee, O merciful Father, to deliver us and all who profess the name of Christ our Lord.

In humbleness of mind preserve us; in penitence confirm us; in gentleness fashion us to thy will; in truth and uprightness uphold us; in the love and practice of mercy encourage and sustain us; in purity of heart and of purpose perfect us; in the making of peace inspire and prosper us; in all misunderstandings and in all injuries whencesoever they may arise give us faith in the power of a mild and forbearing temper.

Grant, O gracious Father, that through the indwelling spirit of thy Son we may live in innocency and true discipleship and may grow in wisdom and in all virtue to our lives' end.

Let our mouth, O Lord, be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day.

O God by whose Word and wisdom we are made partakers of the life eternal; not according to the multitude of thy gifts or tenderness of thy long-suffering, but according to what we know and comprehend we thank thee for life and its daily providences, for the fresh aids to holy living which every new experience provides, for all those thy servants, distant or near, who have lived in faith and nobleness of deed and for the lamps which their examples have lit in lonely and desolate places; but chiefly we thank thee for the Light of the world our Saviour Jesus Christ, for the battle he fought and victory he won, for his abiding presence in the world he loved, and for the promise that all races and kingdoms shall finally acknowledge him for Lord and Saviour; and we beseech thee so to create us anew through the gracious influences of his Gospel that, living in purity and self-denial and as he gave example, we may according to our power overcome lawlessness, hinder wrong, comfort sorrow, and bring the joy and peace of thy heavenly kingdom wherever we come.

O Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto thee.

Glory be to the Father, etc. Amen.

Third Prayer—Intercessions.

Almighty God who alone canst heal the diseases of the soul and restrain the wanderings of our unruly desires; we beseech thee so to increase thy gifts in us and so to multiply thy mercies that being wholly under thy governance and freed from all unworthy fears, passions and

ambitions, we may find in the obedience of thy law perfect freedom, in thy service unfailing joy, and in the assurance of thy favour that peace of soul wherein evil has no more power to tempt.

From hardness of heart, from an unrelenting temper, and from love of the world, we beseech thee O gracious Father, to deliver us.

In the time of our wealth and happiness, in the time of rebuke and misery, in these days of effort, failure and achievement, and in the hour of our departure, we beseech thee O merciful Father, to be gracious unto us ;

And that it may please thee to give us a humble and resolute spirit, and to preserve in us the true faith of the Gospel ;

That it may please thee to instruct and sustain thy Son's Church and his true followers wherever they be, to fortify them in their various conflicts, to give them the victory over the principalities and powers which war against the truth, to defend them from all assaults of avarice and of superstition, and to clothe them with righteousness and charity ;

That it may please thee to guide in peace and safety the Church of Scotland, and to bestow on all her congregations and on this parish and congregation both the knowledge and the love of thy commandments ;

(That it may please thee to have in thy care and keeping thy servant to whom thou hast committed the ministry of the Word in this parish and congregation, to surround him with capable and willing workers, to sustain him in his various difficulties, and to make him through his life and doctrine a worthy guide and inspiring example to the whole people.)

That it may please thee to keep and long preserve our sovereign Lord, King George, the Queen Mary, Alexandra the Queen Mother, the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family ;

That it may please thee to give to the King's Ministers and to the Houses of Parliament now met (now about to meet) a spirit of prudence and understanding and a steadfast purpose of doing always what is just and right ;

That it may please thee to continue and increase thy many and great favours to this kingdom and empire of Britain and so to confirm in us the love of freedom and of justice that desiring to live in harmony with all the peoples of the earth, fearing none and envying none, we may meet with courage and a good conscience whatsoever fortune thou mayst send ;

That it may please thee to grant (continue) peace in our time, O Lord ;

That it may please thee to comfort and sustain the sick, to bear them up when flesh and spirit fail and the will flags, to prosper the means of their healing, and to give them inward peace ;

That it may please thee to grant to all bereaved persons such comfortable memories of their friends who are asleep and so sure a hope of everlasting life that while grieving they may not rebel nor despise thy promises but when they visit the tomb they may hear a voice saying to them, 'Why seek ye the living among the dead ?' ;

That it may please thee to give to thy servants who are here assembled a ready and willing mind to receive thy Son's Gospel and steadfastness of purpose to fulfil it in our lives ;

That it may please thee to implant in us the love of thyself and grace to persevere in all godliness to our lives' end;

That it may please thee to send the Comforter even the Spirit of truth that he may abide with us and at this hour aid us in our prayers, to the end that both our hearts may be perfect toward thee and our worship acceptable; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We beseech thee to hear us, O gracious Father, and of thy compassion to bestow upon us those things which thou seest to be holiest and best, and so to unite us in one faith with all saints that serving thee in uprightness and purity of living, we may at the last attain with them thy heavenly kingdom; through their Saviour and ours, who also taught us thus to pray; Our Father, etc.

Fourth Prayer—of Self-Consecration.

Separate us we beseech thee O God from all unworthy aims and ambitions and from the secret cherishing of things ignoble and false and unite us in sympathy and helpfulness with those who seek thy kingdom and its righteousness.

From weakness, idleness and insincerity, from words without thoughts and resolves without deeds, deliver us O God, and grant that, living in charity and good-will with all men, we may persistently follow after holiness and thy favour; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, etc. Amen.

Evening Service

Opening Collect.

O God who hearest and answerest prayer though thou needest not that any should tell what things they lack or wherein they are distressed; grant us an open mind and submissive heart in all our approaches to thee, with so great trustfulness and obedience that all our desire may be for larger powers of extending the reign of goodness, justice, brotherly kindness, and the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Second Prayer—Confession and Thanksgiving.

O God merciful and long-suffering; we have broken thy laws, rebelled against thy providences, despised thy love, sought those treasures which moth and rust corrupt, and gloried in the hard yoke of the world and the flesh.

But thou, O Almighty Father, who dost cause the soul that returns to thee grieving, to be re-born in righteousness and power; pardon and restore thy repentant people, re-kindle the love that has grown cold, revive the faith that has failed, unveil the misery of a selfish life, and so persuade and enable us to embrace the Gospel of thy Son that we may henceforward live in purity, lowliness, patient endurance, charity, peace and well-doing, to inherit in the end the portion of thy saints.

O Lord, thou art our God; we will exalt thee, we will praise thy name: thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

Almighty God in whom and by whom and to whom are all things, by whose word and wisdom they were made, in whose providence they stand, and by whose

righteous will they are being guided to far-off and gracious purposes; we thy children glorify thy holy name and praise thee for that thou hast highly exalted us and put thy spirit within us and called us to be ministers of thy grace and kindness and witnesses of thy eternal kingdom. Thou didst give thy truth and faithfulness to be strong helpers of our rebellious and perverse race through ages of tumult and violence and hast brought us thy later children to the land of the Gospel and of the promises and art still guiding us through perils and tribulations toward that perfect day for which we pray and hope. Because thy compassions fail not, justice and mercy, tenderness and the fear of thy name have overspread the earth, and faith has triumphed over the principalities and powers which of old usurped thy sovereignty. Thou hast chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty and things which are not to bring to nought the pride and strength of lawless power. Thou hast been a stronghold to the poor and to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, and a shelter from the blast of the terrible ones. Thou hast bestowed more than the heritage of the heathen upon them that fear thy name. Thy ways, O Lord, are deeper than man's thoughts, thy purposes wider than the heavens. Thou movest the earth's foundations, and when thy works are manifest they are found to be wisdom and faithfulness. Therefore our hearts rejoice and with songs will we praise thee, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

Grant, O gracious Father, that the assurance of thy favour may evermore increase in us till every terror of the night and every rebellious thought be driven away

and the Gospel live and shine in all that we think or purpose or do, and that during this present hour of worship, being alone with thee, we may receive encouragement for the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Third Prayer—Intercessions.

Almighty God our heavenly Father who hast united with thyself all them that follow the Lord Jesus in the blessed work of delivering mankind from ignorance, sin and sorrow; grant we beseech thee a spirit of steadfastness and of fidelity to all Christians and to us who are here assembled, that they and we, departing from evil, may by meekness, piety and loving-kindness show forth thy grace and good-will to mankind and be living epistles of Christ known and read of all men;

That being guided and sustained by thee we may live in uprightness and holiness before thee, and by our patience and good works cause light to arise on them that dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;

That the many Churches of thy Son may be led out of their errors, roused from their dreams, delivered from their jealousies and made one in faith and charity;

That they who know thy mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord may freely bestow on the poor, the ignorant, the sick and the wretched whatever gifts, sympathy or skill they have received of thee;

That the bereaved and the solitary may find comfort and healing in thy Word and promises, and through patience and faith may gain the victory and that peace which passeth all understanding;

That all Christian nations may be turned from violence

and robbery, from envy, jealousy and every evil work, to pursue righteousness, industry and the arts which make a people happy and prosperous, and may seek in all their laws and policies to make thy will prevail and thy kingdom come ;

That all governments and legislatures, knowing that thou hast given the children's portion to mankind and hast abundantly provided for all our wants, may freely open to the whole people every avenue to knowledge and happy living and make their several Commonwealths sanctuaries of righteousness and piety ;

That this people of Britain being mindful of thy former mercies and of the frequent dangers from which we and our fathers have been delivered may in perilous times seek counsel from neither fear nor passion but only from thee, in prosperous times may guard against avarice, self-seeking and pride, and both in security and under lowering skies may persistently abide in that justice, freedom and humanity in which stands the strength of any people ;

That we who are here assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus may be his not in name only but also in lowliness of mind, purity of heart, steadfastness of purpose, and in the habit and practice of prayer, self-sacrifice and charity.

From the blindness that will not know thee, from the pride that will not serve thee, and from the perverseness that will not love thee, deliver us, we beseech thee, O Almighty and ever-gracious Father, and so draw us to thyself that through all the coming days we may live in the obedience of thy holy laws, in charity and long-

suffering, and in the full assurance of thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord who also taught us thus to pray;

Our Father, etc.

Fourth Prayer—Collect after Gospel (*see pp.* 70–77).

Fifth Prayer—Of Self-Consecration.

Most gracious Father who this day through the reading of thy Word, prayer and praise hast brought us into one communion with all those who have ever known and loved thee; grant that our hearts being set upon things above we may continue henceforward in innocency of mind and in the faithful obedience of thy holy commandments.

To thy guardianship we commit ourselves for the hours of sleep which now approach beseeching thee that no terror may come nigh our dwelling nor ill thought assail our weakness nor sad memory disturb our rest, and that when night is gone we may awake gladly to happy labour or patient suffering according to thy will and in assured confidence of thy help in whatsoever we faithfully purpose or do.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Morning Service

If ye live after the flesh ye must die, but if, after the spirit ye mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

As many as are led by the spirit of God, these are sons of God.

To them that love God all things work together for good.

Almighty God without whose help we stumble, without whose guidance we go astray ; send forth thy light we beseech thee and cause thy truth so to sustain us inwardly that dry and barren valleys as we journey through them may become places of springs and of verdure and every desert track a highway leading to Zion ; and so enrich us with a devout and prayerful mind throughout this day exempt from common toils and engagements that it may be to us a day of meditation, of happy memories, of faith unclouded, and of fellowship with all them that love thee and the appearing of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Second Prayer—Confession and Thanksgiving.

Almighty God our heavenly Father who hast prepared for us an hour of worship and of happy memories and hopes and ever hearest them that call upon thee in any distress or joy or gratitude ; here, alone with our own thoughts, we would tell to thee the story of our griefs, number the unmerited mercies we have received, and ask such things as we further need, for the worthiness of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In sorrow and contrition we bewail our many offences. We have broken the bruised reed and quenched the smoking flax. When trouble has touched ourselves we have been in great distress, and have thought ourselves forsaken when the clouds gathered and the wind rose. We have sought in Fortune's gifts that joy and peace which love and its works alone can bring. We have called upon thy name and have gone forth to work

our own will. We have forgotten thee, O thou Eternal, before whose face a thousand generations have risen and passed away.

Prone to evil, bound and tied by follies of which we are ashamed, slow to believe, and fearful of what new and strange temptations may yet assail us, we cast ourselves upon thy compassion for pardon and for grace. Take away the burden of our sins we beseech thee, inwardly prepare us for the conflicts of the coming days, and cause thy loving-kindness to triumph over our infirmities.

Almighty God who hast placed us in a world of things true and false, noble and base; grant us clearness of vision and a sure judgment wherever good is intertwined with evil and duty conflicts with desire, and at all hours a settled purpose of seeking thy will and the things that endure, and of living in the joy of thy glorious and eternal kingdom.

Almighty and most gracious Father who girdest the feeble with strength and clothest the dry and barren soul with righteousness and power; awake us to the glory of thy presence in earth and sky, set our hands to works of faith and charity, and so create us anew in the likeness of thy Son, that we may toil and not faint, suffer and not complain, and meet all trials with a steadfast and enduring mind, having our treasure in heaven.

Blessing and praise be unto thee O God most high for the mercies which are new in the uprising of every sun, fresh in the dews of every evening, and varied as our ever-changing needs in weariness, joy, distraction, pain, and solitude.

Thou hast set us in families, cities, and nations, that

we might live in alternate dependence and helpfulness and through mutual services be built up in virtue and tenderness, in brotherliness and charity; thou hast endowed us with reason and with the garnered wealth of many centuries, that we should know and use the powers of the world and deeds of men and read in all events the lessons of thy providence; thou hast guided us in difficulties, comforted us in sorrow, renewed our strength when the way was hard and the burden heavy, and in every time of our overthrow hast sustained us with assurances of final achievement; thou hast delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling; and through the teaching, example and death of thy Son hast opened up a new and living way of access to thyself.

The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear? The Lord is the strength of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?

Almighty God who hast called us to be thy sons and daughters; grant us thy heavenly aids to resist all temptations whencesoever they may arise, with pure hearts to love thee, with clean hands to serve thee in all honesty of living, and in the end to attain the fullness of thy promises; through him who was dead and liveth for ever, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Third Prayer—Intercessions.

Most gracious Father who art ever more willing to bestow benefits than we are to receive and art readier to succour than we are to acknowledge our necessities; have compassion on our infirmities we beseech thee and

so draw us to thyself that we may find in thy Word our wisdom, in thy favour our life, in thy service our freedom and, committing ourselves to thy governance, may with undivided will and purpose do always such things as are pleasing unto thee and helpful to our brethren.

O God who hast made all Churches and Christians members together in one body; grant that we and all who honour the Lord Jesus may labour together unweariedly in overcoming the many evils which still vex and waste thy children and in preparing the day of thy triumph when all races and kingdoms and peoples shall acknowledge thee, the Father, and thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God who orderest all events and sustainest the souls of thy servants in every affliction;

Upon those who have departed from the truth and sold themselves to idols bestow we beseech thee a fresh outpouring of the spirit and revelation of the Son of Man who in the simplicity of love and self-sacrifice manifested the hidden splendour of our nature and thy infinite compassion;

Upon those who sadly recall the former days when thy favour shone on their path and on all their doings and faith was strong and bright within, bestow a lively trust in thy returning mercy and hope of a new uprising of the sun and scattering of all clouds;

Upon those who are distracted by many cares and find their burdens heavier than their strength, bestow sustaining memories of those thy valiant servants who trusting in thee and enduring to the end won a crown of everlasting life;

Upon those who in happier times called upon thee either in solitude or in the Church of thy Son, bestow a revived and deepened knowledge of thyself and of thy redeeming grace in Jesus Christ our Lord ;

Upon sick and enfeebled persons bestow we beseech thee the ministry of kind voices, skilful hands and brave hearts to succour them in their various distresses, that their affliction may not be unto discontent and doubt of thy loving-kindness but unto patience and courage and the joy of a wiser and larger faith ;

Upon all bereaved persons bestow the comfort of thy presence and of the words of thy Son, Our brother (sister) is not dead but sleepeth ;

Cause light O God to arise upon them that dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O God who rulest the nations in righteousness and through many ebbs and flows of fortune hast led this people of Britain to splendour and vast dominion and hast enriched us with thy best gifts of freedom and religion ; continue thy manifold and unwearied mercies we beseech thee and grant to our whole people such inward unity and concord that even in times of passion and of divided counsels we may remain of one mind and heart to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with thee.

Give the King thy judgements O God and so fortify the King's Councillors [and the Houses of Parliament now met (about to meet)] that they together may judge the poor of the people, save the children of the needy, break the oppressor, and cause the way of the righteous to be

as the light of dawn shining more and more unto the perfect day.

Almighty God our heavenly Father whose Son in the time of his humiliation did pray for his disciples and for them also who should believe on him through their word, that they should all be one in thee; now in the time of his power and victory bestow upon all communities of Christian folk throughout the world gifts of faith, humility and perseverance and grant that they putting away from them all jealousy, wrath and fear and being united in the bond of charity may seek the things which are thine and be rivals only in zeal and noble works;

Upon the world whose griefs he bore, whose sorrows he carried, whose sins nailed him to the tree, bestow the joy of thy unveiled presence and strength of thy compassion that his work may attain its perfect end and the desire of his soul be satisfied;

Cause the Gospel of thy Son O God to be a far shining light and hope of salvation to all people.

Our Father, etc.

Fourth Prayer—Of Self-Consecration.

Almighty and most gracious Father who hast come near to us this morning through prayer, praise, and the reading of thy Word, and, through thy spirit speaking inwardly to our spirits, hast been drawing us to thyself; guard and foster the life which thou hast enkindled and so enrich us with thy heavenly gifts of faith and charity that we may spend the remaining hours of this day devoutly and as in thy presence, and may greet the duties of the coming week as they arise with a

steadfast resolve to do all those things which we now purpose in our hearts, and to live as beseemeth the followers of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Evening Service

Opening Collect.

Almighty and most merciful Father in this hour of quiet, and of evening worship, help us to draw near to thee with humble, penitent and obedient hearts confessing our unworthiness and seeking the aids of thy holy spirit that we may henceforward live in purity and self-denial to the praise of thy name and our own eternal welfare.

Whom have we in heaven but thee O God, and there is none upon earth whom we desire beside thee. Our heart and our flesh fail; but thou art our strength and everlasting portion.

In the cares and frets, anxieties and burdens of daily life uphold us, from love of self and from the fear of men deliver us, and turn our minds to heavenly things; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Prayer—Confession and Thanksgiving.

In the darkening shades of evening we bring our darkened lives to thee, O gracious Father, our wasted hours, our unfinished tasks, our weariness and disappointments, our sorrow for opportunities offered and not used, calls heard and not obeyed, duties known and not done, and our coldness to a love which has followed us in all our wanderings.

Lord, for thy tender mercies' sake, lay not these sins to our charge: but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.

Lighten our darkness, O God, that when the ways are doubtful and our hearts fail we may seek thy face and not the counsels of erring men.

Increase our faith, that when we are tempted we may know that victory is near if we faint not, and when we fall, that we are not forsaken.

Let thy gracious help so abound in us that we may continue in cheerful piety all our days and in the obedience of thy holy laws.

Almighty God who hast destined us for an inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away; grant that we may so work and suffer among the things which are seen and temporal that they may be to us the shadowing forth of things unseen and eternal and of that City from above whose foundations are laid in the love and sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

O Lord open thou our lips and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

With our whole heart we give thee thanks most gracious Father for the world in which we now struggle, suffer and aspire and for that better world of final achievement for which we hope; for the mercy that is new every morning, fresh every evening, and as varied as our ever-changing needs; for the gifts of faith and hope that make perpetual sunshine within us and around; for the tenderness of thy compassions in every time of our discomfiture; for the light of knowledge, the discipline of duty, the ties

and obligations of kindred, and our continued fellowship with all those who were once our friends and teachers and are now with thee; for the Gospel of thy Son and the new powers and hopes which are born of it; for our memories of his earthly life and our union with him in a life that is eternal; and for the assurance that his mild and gracious spirit will finally overcome all the violences of the earth, his truth deliver all souls that are in bondage, and his kingdom abide and grow and never pass away: and we beseech thee that these thy so many and great gifts and promises may persuade and enable us to subdue all worldly thoughts, to deny ungodly lusts, and to lead honest and useful lives in the service of our brethren and love of thee.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Third Prayer—Intercessions.

Almighty God who hast given thy Word and the worship of thy house for our instruction and encouragement in the way of everlasting life; grant us also the constant and effectual aid of thy spirit that we may continue in the daily practice of the Gospel and finally attain thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God who hast given struggle and pain to be the constant portion of all mankind and hast appointed all who live nobly and generously to pass from trial to trial and to endure many tribulations; evermore increase in us a loving, tolerant and kindly disposition so that more and more we may live in the joys and sorrows of many brethren, knowing that they without us and we without them cannot be made perfect.

For all the races and nations of mankind we beseech thee,

That according to their several opportunities they may attain justice and freedom, peace and industry, and may live in order, quiet and the fear of thy name ;

That all kings, princes and governments, forsaking the evil ways of pride and violence, may seek thy will and the true welfare of their peoples.

For this kingdom and empire of Britain we beseech thee,

That thy servant our Sovereign Lord King George may be enriched with every princely virtue and family happiness and that his reign may be crowned with a long-enduring peace ;

That the Parliament of Britain through the equity of the laws which it ordains, the prudence of its administration of the nation's wealth, and its honourable and generous dealing with other peoples, may continue to be the glory and safety of the land and a strong bulwark against oppression ;

That the younger nations and commonwealths which own the sovereignty of Britain may be knit together in ever-strengthening bonds of brotherhood and in a common love of justice, freedom, and humanity.

For the Church and Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ we beseech thee,

That they may continually replenish the deeper springs of human valour and wisdom, nourish the nobler hopes of the race, encourage all good men, and guide the world in ways of peace and brotherhood.

For the poor, the unhappy, the sick and the bereaved we beseech thee,

That the glory and comfort of thy heavenly kingdom may be their consolation in loneliness and misery, that the assurance of thy grace and fatherhood may sustain them in the night-watches, and that the promise of our Lord may be fulfilled in them, Peace I leave with you.

Almighty and most gracious Father who in the business and interests of the world that now is hast prepared for thy children a varied life and hast also bestowed upon us desires and faculties which nothing the world gives can satisfy; grant that while we are busy with the things which pass with the passing hour we may not lose those more enduring things which are unseen and eternal, nor in the use and enjoyment of thy gifts forget thy long-suffering and bounty but, knowing the gracious purpose of all thy works and the destiny which thou hast prepared for such as are faithful, may love thee with all our heart and soul, with all our strength and mind and follow the holy example of Jesus Christ, thy Son and our Redeemer, who also taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, etc.

Fourth Prayer—Collect after Gospel (*see pp.* 70–77).

Fifth Prayer—Of Self-Consecration.

Most gracious Father, bountiful and long-suffering; mercifully look upon thy children often bewildered and sorrowful, to confirm in us the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, that being rooted and grounded therein we may share his hopes and live his life, distressed for no storm or accident, overwhelmed by no event, turned out of the

way by no wrath or terror of man, afraid for no darkness and for no silence, nor doubtful that thou unseen dost still sustain us and wilt bring us home at last, wise, patient and strong, to inherit all the wealth of thy everlasting kingdom.

With the silent hours that now approach give us rest and quietness, O God, and after sleep a glad awaking; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Morning Service

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord and greatly delighteth in his commandments;
Who is gracious and compassionate and long-suffering;
Who scattereth abroad and giveth to the needy;
Whose heart is fixed trusting in the Lord.

Upon him the light ariseth when the days are evil;
His truth and goodness shine forth like the sun;
He shall be had in everlasting remembrance;
He shall not be moved for ever.

Almighty God the giver of all true thoughts and resolves and rewarder of them that diligently seek thee; visit us we beseech thee in this place of sacred memories and aspirations that we may with a morning gladness of soul know and rejoice in that love in which all human griefs are transfigured and common things become divine.

Make for us here a refuge from the stress and turmoil

of earthly things, dispel the clouds of our distrust and our coldness to the things which are spiritual and eternal, unite us with those who have sought thee in trouble and been delivered, or uttering all the sadness of their hearts and their contrition have gone down to their houses justified, or exulting in thy favour have grown strong to do and endure thy holy will, and grant that living in the like sincerity and humbleness of mind we may with them escape the misery of unshared joys and griefs and remain in unbroken fellowship with their Saviour and ours, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Prayer—Confession and Thanksgiving.

Almighty God who knowest the heart of man and every hidden thought; for our many transgressions turn us not away from thy presence and take not thy holy spirit from us. The evil we have done and the good we have left undone, the wisdom we have rejected and the mercies we have despised, rise up in judgment against us for our condemnation. We have stifled the voice of conscience, have broken a thousand vows of amendment, have set our hearts on things which perished as we grasped them, and have gone with a multitude to do evil. Times and ways without number we have offended against thy holy laws. Our faith has been a broken reed, our love a torch that flares and dies, and we have no hope save in thee alone.

Most gracious Father who willest that all should return to thee bewailing what has been weak and foolish and wrong in their past lives and resolved upon a new life of purity, devotion and unselfishness; receive, pity, help and succour thy contrite and penitent children and

grant that condemning and forsaking the evil deeds and disloyal thoughts which now afflict our consciences we may hereafter through thy grace assisting us live in reverence and humility, in honour and piety, in godliness and virtue, striving with our whole might to be wise and true, gentle and sincere, in every temptation and adversity brave and enduring servants of thy will and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of all might and compassion who lookest on the heart and pardonest such as truly repent; grant us grace to amend our weak and sinful lives.

Merciful Father without whose furtherance our best resolves are as words writ in water; draw us wholly unto thyself and so sanctify us in body and soul that those things which we know we may also do, and those things we purpose we may also accomplish, and those things we begin we may also bring to a happy issue, to the praise of thy name, the comfort of thy people, the peace of our own souls, and our eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God in whom alone our hope is; rend now the veil which darkens all our thoughts of thee, awake us out of sleep into a morning resoluteness of soul, and grant us such aids and furtherances that we may spend the hours of this day in devotion, and through sunshine and storm hereafter may flee the evil and seek the good, resist the world and gain the crown of an endless life, lose all and find all in thee.

O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together.

For the life which thou hast given and preserved, the

world in which we dwell, and the hope of everlasting blessedness, we thank thee O God ;

For the pains and distresses which have moulded us as clay is moulded by the potter, and for the consolations which so often like springs in the desert have refreshed our weariness, we thank thee O God ;

For comfort and help in sorrow, in pain, in bereavement, and when flesh and heart failed, we thank thee O God ;

For the warnings of thy spirit speaking to our spirits when the sky was bright and all men spoke well of us, we thank thee O God ;

For the life and doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ, for his love and sacrifice, for his boundless compassion, and for the glorious company of those who have followed him in weakness unto victory, we thank thee O God.

Lord of our life and God of our salvation who hast made the world for man and man for thyself ; grant that we may so use thy multiplied and unfailing mercies and gifts that all our days being passed in thy fear and in the service of our brethren we may at the last be found faithful and wise stewards who meet their Lord with joy and not with fear.

Glory, etc.

Third Prayer—Intercessions.

Almighty God who in love created the world and man and through many gracious ministries art reconciling the world and man to thyself ; grant that the knowledge of thy works and of our own powers and needs may continually grow and deepen till thy whole purpose become plain to us and nothing which thou hast made

or spoken may appear strange to us or hostile but in all thy works and in all thy words we may see and hear the hand and voice of our Father.

From sinful desires, from unruly passions, from blindness of soul, from unstable purposes, from insincere professions, from neglect of thy worship, and from the waywardness of our hearts, deliver us O God; in ways of uprightness and piety uphold us, and by the powerful aids of thy spirit enable us to walk before thee in innocency of life, in unfeigned love of those things which are above, and in the faithful service of thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God patient and loving who hast set mankind in races and kingdoms that each may become strong in that which others lack and all be one community in many families; so deliver the several peoples from ancient animosities and so direct their governments by thy divine wisdom that the many Commonwealths of mankind may be treasure-houses of truth, equity and freedom and may dwell together in confidence, unfailing good-will and mutual helpfulness.

Upon our sovereign lord King George, the Ministers of State, [and the Houses of Parliament now met (about to meet)], upon all Courts of Justice and Magistracies and upon the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of this City (Rulers of this Parish and County), bestow such understanding and willingness that they, wholly submitting themselves to thy governance, may be wise stewards of the powers committed to them, to the healing of social disorders, the spreading abroad of light and hope and the welfare of the whole people;

Upon schools and universities, and upon all students and such as feed the deeper mind of the world bestow knowledge of thy ways in the earth and in the fortunes of men and nations, and the guidance of thy Spirit which leadeth into all truth ;

Upon all kindly and compassionate persons who heal the various hurts of the people, especially upon physicians, surgeons, and nurses, bestow such skill, constancy of endeavour and wealth of ever-increasing success as shall be to them an abundant reward and shall plainly declare to all, thy approval and sustaining grace ;

Upon the many Churches of thy Son, separated in structure yet one in faith and charity, cause thy love to abide, and grant that being rooted in a gracious humanity and open to the free truth whencesoever it may come they may grow in wisdom, courage, self-devotion and purity of living and be homes and nurses of every human nobleness, to the fuller setting forth of the truth in word and deed and clearer demonstration of the way of salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord ;

Upon all friendless and joyless persons alone in the crowd, upon widows and orphans and those who mourn a love withdrawn, especially upon any known to us whose hearts are sad to-day, we beseech thee, thou only comforter of the sorrowful, only refuge when hope and courage fail, send forth thy messengers of patience and of fortitude, that the drooping may raise their heads again and the forlorn rejoice, and they for whom the world retains nothing that is dear may grow rich in a treasure which the world can neither give nor take away ;

Upon such as are drawing near the gates of death bestow constancy of soul, the gracious aids of thy Spirit,

and a sure hope of everlasting blessedness, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Almighty and most loving Father who, out of a boundless liberality, dost ever bestow on thy children more than we either desire or deserve; have regard to our needs and not to our prayers and give not according to our poor asking but according to the riches of thy glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, etc.

Fourth Prayer—Of Self-Consecration.

Almighty God whom we seek not in vain even when we find thee not; create in us and sustain the longing and the hope and the open mind to know every place to be holy whither we come and every event an intimation of thy presence, and so to yield ourselves at all hours to thy ministers of wonder, aspiration and love that by them we may constantly be led away from the crowd and from all common thoughts toward the dwelling-place of our Father.

Gracious Father within whose light and under the sway of whose peace we come with every turning away from personal desires and ambitions; keep alive in us, we beseech thee, the longing of the child for its father, of the sinner for his Saviour, of the storm-tossed voyager for the lights and safety of the harbour. Grant that neither in the stress of business nor in meditative hours we may ever be far away from thee.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Evening Service

Opening Collect.

Almighty God in whose light alone we know ourselves, without whose guidance we are distressed, in the obedience of whose larger will there is perfect freedom; grant us so sure a confidence in thy unfailing sympathy that we may freely and joyously go to thee whensoever we are perplexed or in trouble, to be raised by thee into that serener faith in which all sorrows are healed and all sins forgiven, into that diviner love which renders sacrifice a joy, and into that abiding peace which the world can neither give nor take away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Prayer—Confession and Thanksgiving.

Most gracious Father who givest the morning for gladness and the evening for meditation; while the shadows are darkening and the still hours approach, like children who have roamed and been busy under a father's eye, we come together under this common roof to remember the day's employments, the good and evil we have done in it, and the gifts of a gracious and all-seeing providence. For what we have enjoyed this day, for what we have learned, for what we have wisely done or piously resolved, we give thee thanks. We thank thee for the light of thy Word, for the services of thy house, for revived memories of those who wrought thy will in former times and are now become as stars and constellations in the sky, and for the life and sacrifice of Jesus, ever the sharer of our burdens, our fellow-soldier in the battle, and our unfailing friend. This day thou

hast come near to us and laid thy hand upon us; thou hast brought to us beauty, joy, heart-restfulness and all the wealth of the soul, that treasure which can never become as dust and ashes; to thee, O gracious Father, be humble thanks and praise.

While the day endures grant that we may receive thy gifts gladly and lean upon thy love lest the night fall suddenly and the glory and strength pass away. Cause love in our hearts to respond to love in thine, and that a firm purpose of obedience may grow strong in the waning light.

O God who hast fashioned us for good and not for evil; cleanse our hearts from every vile affection, open our eyes to behold the kingdom which truth and goodness are building up in the world, renew our wills from day to day, and enable us to lay hold on eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us search and try our ways and turn again to the Lord; let us lift up our hearts unto God in the heavens.

Most gracious Father who knowest the many weaknesses which belong to our humanity and art patient with our infirmities; pardon us wherein seeing we do not perceive and hearing do not understand and being drawn do not follow, and so confirm our confidence in thy love and sympathy, that with free and joyous hearts we may claim and use every good gift which thou bestowest, follow on to know the whole truth, and trust the guiding of thy divine spirit, lest it be for our condemnation that the word was heard and not received, known and not loved, believed and not done.

Merciful Father with whom are blessing and salvation;

so quicken our minds and hearts and so sustain us in all temptations that having the Gospel of thy Son for our light and strength and serving the truth in loyalty and resoluteness we may through the dimness and clamour of the earthly struggle hear the voice and behold the works of a divine compassion, and in our stormy natures find the beginnings of peace.

Father most compassionate, giver of all things that pertain to life and godliness; guide and uphold us in the way of life and of thy Son Jesus our Lord and grant that we, living in him, may live eternally and may never know death save as change from effort to achievement, from faith to full fruition.

Glory, etc.

Third Prayer—Intercessions.

Almighty and most gracious Father who givest to all creatures according to their several needs and capacities and hast upon us so richly bestowed thyself that no prosperity pleases till it is shared with the weak and sad; grant that we may so wholly unite ourselves with the joys and burdens of our brethren as to be one with them in whatsoever they do or suffer, after the example of him who partook of every form of human gladness and sorrow, and with sinners felt the bitter pangs of sin.

For all sad and distressed persons, for the sick, the desolate and the dying, for the discontented and bitter of soul, for those who have set the world in their hearts, for those who faint for lack of friendship and of hope, for those who have never heard or, hearing, have not received the glad tidings of thy loving-kindness to men, for those who have perverted the truth or for any fear of tribulation have

departed from the faith of the Gospel, we beseech thee, O gracious Father. Of thy mercy, comfort, pardon and deliver them. For ourselves also we beseech thee, that wisdom and constancy of endeavour be given us to share the burdens of such as are oppressed by sorrow, care, pain, or any other disquietude, to enlighten their ignorance, to cheer their loneliness, to draw their wandering feet homewards, and through our sacrifices and labours for them to attain the blessedness of such as follow the example and obey the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grant inward fortitude and endurance we beseech thee to those who have missed their way and have never known prosperity, to those who rejoiced in the sunlight for a while and now dwell among averted faces and are friendless but for thee, to those who wait for harvest and it cometh not; sustain all such when flesh and spirit fail, revive their courage, make them steadfast in every good work, confirm and increase their faith, and give them the victory at last.

Almighty and most compassionate Father who, in every age and land, hast set justice, mercy and humility in the hearts of thy children to be present witnesses of thy blessed and holy kingdom, and hast raised up prophets and wise men to magnify and make them honourable; grant that we, having a better teacher in Jesus Christ and a clearer light in his Gospel, may fulfil the whole law in love and live without rebuke in uprightness, charity and trust; through the same Jesus our Lord, who also taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, etc.

Fourth Prayer—Collect after Gospel (*see pp.* 70–77).

Fifth Prayer—Of Self-consecration.

Almighty God our heavenly Father who hast made us in thine image so that the dearest of earthly treasures pleases for a short time only and leaves the soul empty and distracted; grant that while passing through our mortal pilgrimage and partaking gladly of what the day brings of joy, we may never expect from any earthly thing more than just enough for the day's need, but may follow steadfastly in the steps of thy true servants to obtain with them eternal riches, and most of all may learn of Jesus our Lord who took upon him our infirmities that he might win for us a heavenly citizenship, and endured the cross that we might attain the infinite bliss of union with thee, the All-holy and All-wise, our Father in heaven.

Through the coming hours of sleep and helplessness be thou our guardian, O God, and whensoever the light fails uphold our steps and lead us in the right way, for the love of Christ our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

GOSPEL READINGS AND COLLECTS

After the Lord's Prayer at the Evening Service the Minister shall say,

Attend to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ given for our instruction,

and shall repeat a short passage from one of the Gospels, as for example:

Matt. v. 3-10
11-12
13-16
17-20
21-24
33-37
38-42
43-48
and many others from Matt. vi. and vii.

Matt. ix. 16-17
x. 34-36
37-39
xi. 16-19
25b-27
28-30
xiii. 24b-30

Matt. xviii. 3-6
15-17
xxv. 31-46

Mark viii. 34b-38
x. 42b-45
xi. 23-26
xii. 29b-31
xiii. 33-37

Luke vi. 20b-26
27b-31
32-38
39b-45
47-49
x. 30-36
xi. 5b-10
11-13

Luke xii. 16b-21	John x. 7b-10
22b-31	xii. 44b-50
32-40	xiv. 1-4, 6
xiv. 16b-24	15-21
26-27	xv. 1-8
xv. 4-7	17-19
11-24a	26-27
xvii. 1b-4	*and many others from*
xviii. 10-14	St John.

(The foregoing passages are wholly in the words of our Lord and have been selected as having a universal application and as dealing directly with conduct. Many other speeches of a similar character and of equal importance are omitted from this list because they consist of a single short sentence, are not readily intelligible when separated from the context, or are embedded in narratives, which are here excluded. Where the same speech is reported by two or more of the Evangelists the preference is often one of individual taste.)

After a Gospel Reading the Congregation shall sing,

Let thy Word be a light unto our feet and a lamp unto our path and lead us in the right way, O Lord, we humbly entreat thee.

The Minister shall then say a short prayer for the profitable hearing of the Gospel to which the Congregation shall respond by singing Amen.

(*For suggested Collects see pp.* 70–77.)

Where doctrinal statements are desired they may be taken

from the Gospels and Epistles, and may be introduced by the words,

Attend to the words of the Apostle (Evangelist) given for our instruction,

and be followed by the Sentence given above and by a Collect as in the case of a Reading from the Gospel.

(*The following taken almost at random from the Epistle to the Romans will suggest many other equally suitable passages*):

Romans v.	1-5	Romans xii.	1-2
vi.	8-11		10-13
	12-13		14-18
viii.	1-6		19-21
	14-17	xiii.	8-9
	18, 22, 23		12-14
	24-26	xiv.	5-8
	28-30	xv.	1-3
	35-39		
xi.	33-36		

Gospel Collects

(*Matt.* vi. 19–21.)

Grant, O bountiful and ever gracious Father that these words which we have now heard may be a spirit and power within us to root out of our hearts the desire for personal possession and lust of selfish enjoyment and to plant, nourish and bring to flower and fruit that pity for suffering and that love of thy heavenly kingdom which were in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(*Matt.* xviii. 15–17.)

Grant, O gracious Father, that being mindful how often and grievously we offend against thee we may be patient toward wrong-doers and toward those who seek our hurt and be ready to forgive and to seek their good always after the command and example of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God who hast written thy law in our hearts and given thy Son to show in word and deed what thou wouldst have us do and be; increase in us, we beseech thee, a brotherly and companionable spirit and so constant a sense of our own short-comings that we may be patient with those who stand in our way, tolerant of those who judge not as we judge, and may readily and with a glad mind forgive those who do us wrong; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(*Luke* iv. 18–19.)

Almighty God our gracious and loving Father in heaven from whom and to whom are all things, to be instructed by whom is to be wise, to be reconciled to whom is to live, to be sustained by whom is to be strong and prevail, to be wholly possessed by whom is to enter the eternal kingdom, to be forsaken of whom is to perish; of thy love and fatherhood continually gladden us with the good news which Jesus brought into our guilty world, and so root in us the words which he has now spoken to us that they may bear in our lives the excellent fruit of righteousness and charity to the saving of our souls; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(*Mark* viii. 34–35.)

Almighty God who in these words of our Lord dost declare the way of life and of all perfection; give us courage and hardihood to turn away from the nerveless and ineffectual works of the past, to welcome the hard tasks which lie to our hand and the sorrows which are of thy appointing, and to be busy at all hours with thoughts and acts of charity, careless of rebuke and loss if only we may do thy will and attain at last the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Amen.

(*John* x. 14–16.)

Almighty God who hast given thy Son Jesus our Lord to be as a good shepherd to our souls; through the power of his Gospel and of the words which he has now spoken to us save us from false guides, from the shadows which still haunt the former sanctuaries, and from all terrors of the wilderness and grant that hearing his voice we may follow it not fearing till we reach the one true fold. Amen.

(*Matt.* vi. 5–6.)

Gracious and loving Father in heaven, create in us we beseech thee and increase a considerate and thoughtful disposition, a patient temper, a devout mind, and so confirm in us the habit of prayer that in confidence going to thee with our many and constant perplexities, and every hour asking thy blessing on our endeavours we may lose our desolateness in the joy of thy presence and know our tribulations to be but passing clouds in the azure of thy eternity. Amen.

(*John* xv. 12–15.)

Almighty God who hast given us in Jesus Christ our Lord a friend who is closer to them that love him than any brother of our blood; take away we beseech thee the dimness from our eyes and minds that we may know him as he is, a partaker of our joys and sorrows and stranger to nothing that man can know or feel, and so deepen our desire of those things which he loved and so strengthen in us that confidence which sustained his soul in the time of his tribulation that being one with him in faith and conviction we may never be far away from him in any joy or pain; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(*Matt.* v. 13–16.)

Grant, O gracious Father, that these words of thy Son may so constantly guide both our thoughts and lives and be in us so strong and effectual that notwithstanding whatsoever opposition may arise we may through them be bold in word and deed to show forth the truth as we ourselves have learned it and be examples to others of pious, sincere and godly living, to the glory of his most excellent Gospel. Amen.

Almighty God our heavenly Father who alone dost cause light to arise out of darkness and life out of barrenness; so plant in our hearts the truths which thou hast now spoken to us by thy Son that they may take root and grow up and bear fruit abundantly of faith and holiness, to the saving of our souls, the good of thy people, and the glory of thy name; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(*Mark* xiii. 33–37.)

Make us earnest and diligent, we beseech thee O God, in the work which thou from time to time appointest us to do, giving to it our whole heart and soul while strength endures, and during thy long silences watching and praying, lest it be for our condemnation when thou comest that the loins are ungirt, the lamps unlit, and the tasks undone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(*Matt.* v. 43–45.)

Almighty God who hast given this scripture for our encouragement and that it may guide us in the way of eternal life; forbid that, hearing we should not understand and being taught should despise instruction, but grant us so willing a mind to obey thy holy law that the words we have now received may abide with us and make us wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Most gracious Father, so quicken inwardly the words which thou hast now spoken to us that they and the whole Gospel of thy Son may become a power to instruct, to guide, to fortify, to cleanse our hearts from what is evil and to confirm what is pleasing in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(*Matt.* ix. 16–17.)

Almighty God who hast made of all experience parables of thy gracious dealings with mankind and through common doors dost open a way into the kingdom of truth and of eternal life; grant that we, with ready

and prepared minds receiving, may truly understand and lay to heart this teaching of thy Son and be made by it wise unto salvation; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(*John* xii. 44–50.)

O God who through varied and ever-changing experiences art bringing us to thy divine kingdom; grant that we may follow the way of the Gospel and of all perfection with the hope of Zion in our hearts making the barren places green, and with the light of Zion on our path making the dark places bright, and with faith in thy Son sustaining us in all difficulties till we reach our desired home; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gracious and ever-loving Father, by thy help deliver us we beseech thee from the idle ways and evil dreams of our time of ignorance, and speak to us as in every age thou hast spoken to the faithful and sincere, that we like them seeking thee with open and prepared minds, may find a father's love and care for his children in all the things that befall us and an open way of reconciliation and of peace in following the holy example and teaching of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

O Lord, gracious Father, who by the Evangelists didst cause thy Son's works of mercy and his words of grace to be written for our instruction; quicken our understanding of the holy oracle which we have at this time read, and so increase in us the power of the Gospel that we be not hearers only of spiritual things but doers also of good works, following the way of thy Son in love and

blamelessness of life, not distrusting the glory and victory that are drawing nigh. Amen.

(*Matt.* vi. 1–4.)

Create in us O God we beseech thee new hearts and dispositions to receive, use and profit by these words which we have now heard and also by the whole Gospel of thy Son; and, that he may not be our Saviour in name and promise only but also in fact and present experience, implant in us not his teaching only but also himself, not his example only but also his love, his patience and his fortitude; so that as becometh thy children and his disciples we may prove faithful in the several tasks which thou appointest, steadfast in every storm, glad when the wind falls and the sea is calm again, trustful when thou art silent and they taunt us saying, Where is now thy help, charitable to all men, and through all changes watchful for thy word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Attend to what is written concerning the martyr Stephen for our instruction.)

(*Acts* vii. 55–60.)

God of all grace who rendest the veil when earthly things are dark and givest the victory to them that believe and swerve not; grant that we, being mindful of those who have laid down their lives for the truth, may constantly do that which commends itself to our consciences in thy sight, not fearing if thou be with us and not refusing the cross of Christ. Amen.

(Attend to the words of the Apostle Paul given for our instruction.)

(2 *Corin.* iv. 8–10.)

God of all grace who alone makest strength of conviction and steadfastness of endurance effectual in our lives and givest the victory to such as are faithful unto death; grant that we may at all times do that which is just and right, not shrinking from pain, nor bending under violence, nor heeding the clamour and wrath of men, but hopeful of thy approving word, Well done, good and faithful servant; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICES AND PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Christmas

Opening Prayer.

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.

Blessed be Jehovah the God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David. The Lord hath comforted his people and will have mercy on his afflicted.

Gracious and loving Father in heaven who hast united us this day with Christian people throughout the whole world in remembering the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; with all who know and follow him we thank thee for the hopes and wider purposes into which mankind were born through his Gospel, and earnestly beseech of thee the various aids of thy gracious spirit that we may be partakers of his innocency, his joyousness of spirit, and his unfailing charity, and living in devoutness and self-denial may be united with him in eternal felicity. Amen.

Hymn.

Second Prayer—Thanksgiving for the Coming of our Lord.

Gracious Father who didst send forth thy Son Jesus our Lord to utter all thy will for man in a life of charity and self-sacrifice; so revive and quicken in us the sacred memories of this season that we may again with the hearts of children and faith of the shepherds read the wondrous story of his coming, and through knowledge of his life and teaching may more wisely interpret the mysteries of thy grace than they did who knew him only as a babe lying in a manger.

We remember his great humility in that he took upon him the low estate of a servant and was subject to the pains and distresses of our humanity; his presence at feasts when hearts were glad and with mourners in their hour of bitterness; his sympathy with the multitude who hungered for bread and the bread of life and were as sheep without a shepherd; his patience with those who despised him; his boundless compassion; his constancy in the evil days when they all forsook him and fled; the peace and hidden joy of assured sonship in which he lived; his resoluteness in danger; his agony in the Garden; his acceptance of thy holy will; his prayer for those who ignorantly slew him; his confidence that at last all evil will be destroyed and all ignorance dispelled; and his return to thee to be our everlasting Friend and Saviour.

We remember also and give thanks for the immortal longings which he quickened in the souls of men, for his promise of new heavens and a new earth wherein shall dwell righteousness, for the shining of his mild and

tolerant spirit age after age on the troubled sea of human passion, for the guiding lights he kindled, dimly seen by the selfish and the ignoble but a full assurance of prosperous voyages to such as love him and obey, for the works which his servants, sustained by him, have wrought in hospitals, on battle-fields, and among the poor and disinherited, and for the sorrows they have healed or prevented; for the private comfort he has brought to our souls during the past year, and for the confidence with which in his company we face the unknown journey that yet remains:

With grateful and adoring hearts we pray that these memories be not in us as good seed asleep in untilled and ungenial soil, but that, taking root in soil prepared by faith and prayer, they may spring up and bear fruit in us inwardly of goodness, graciousness and long-suffering, and in our lives, of wise and prosperous service of the Gospel, to the glory of thy name, the comfort of thy people, and our eternal felicity.

Thou hast healed our souls that we should not perish; thou hast enriched us who were poor with the treasures of salvation; thou hast made us who had nothing to inherit thy favour which is life and strength; therefore with heart and voice we worship thee, and with all saints ascribe blessing and honour and glory and power unto him that sitteth upon the throne and to the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

Prose Psalm.

Old Testament Lesson.

Hymn.

New Testament Lesson.

Third Prayer—Confession and Intercessions.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who didst give thy Son Jesus our Lord to be our Redeemer and our unfailing friend and helper; we humbly confess that in the light of his Gospel and with the glory of his example shining on our path we have often wandered into ways of sorrow and disaster, have chosen folly rather than wisdom, have taken the clamour of men for the thunder of thy voice, have doubted and been distrustful when good for a time was overcome of evil, have lived in pride and wantonness, fretting and not comforting one another, and have borne ourselves like strangers and intruders in our Father's vineyard and workshop, and not like children of the house, loving and beloved. It is of thy long-suffering and because thou judgest not as man judgeth that we plead for pardon, and for our final redemption from weakness, folly and sin.

Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us so steadfast a purpose that, not heeding the pain nor fearing the present loss, we may resolutely drive out the evil things which separate us from thee and are our shame and sorrow, and, taking to us the whole armour of truth, righteousness, obedience and faith, stand fast in thy might, seeking inspiration from the Gospel of thy Son.

Almighty and most gracious Father; should new times be given us and should new Springs, Summers, Autumns and Winters come to us with their exuberance of varied experience and opportunity, grant that we may never so grievously as in the past be unresponsive to the dews and sunshine of thy providences, never stand leafless and fruitless like trees planted in desert sands, but, more

and more delighting in thy law, be as trees planted by streams of water which yield their fruit in their season.

Most gracious Father whose gifts to thy children are limited only by the narrowness of our desires and our unwillingness to receive ; so intensify our sense of kinship with thyself and with thy Son Jesus and so enlarge our thoughts of blessedness that both for ourselves and for others we may ask of thee, not those things which promise a present ease or delight, but those greater things which are worthy of thy beneficence to bestow and are needful for us to receive for our attaining to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

For the Church of thy Son we beseech thee, O God,

To make the spirit of the Master so strong in it that, rejecting all worldly ambitions, it may with his simplicity live in meekness, charity, and unwearied endeavour, careless of rebukes, patient under disappointments, seeking only the highest welfare of men and abiding in thy love.

For our native country we beseech thee, O God,

To give thy servant George our King thy strong support in every time of anxiety, and to surround him with able and devoted counsellors ;

To bestow on the King's Ministers and Parliament such loyalty to righteousness and honour, and so to direct them in every time of divided counsels that they may never be misled by the wiles of any enemy, nor fail through any lack of courage or of faith, but in every peril and dubiety may clearly discern the path on which thy favour rests, follow it without fear, and prosperously continue the noblest traditions of our race ;

To give to the whole people such unity of purpose and such steadfastness of aim as shall make this land of Britain, as of old so in our time, the home and strong defence of freedom, justice and humanity.

For all the nations and for all mankind we beseech thee, O God,

To lead the several peoples so to shape their governments as that under them they may live in security, contentment, wealth, and happiness ;

To bind them together in such strong bonds of mutual understanding and sympathy that they may cease now and for ever to be rivals and destroyers and may become many brethren in one household, many labourers in one vineyard, many treasure houses of all precious things for the discipline, delight, and enrichment of mankind ;

To cause wars to cease throughout the world and the Prince of Peace to ascend his throne.

For sick and afflicted persons, for those who have been bereaved, and for those who either for themselves or for friends dread the approach of the last messenger we beseech thee, O God,

To comfort, sustain, and console them, to be to them a light in sorrow, pain and loneliness and a living presence to them whatsoever they may suffer, and to bestow upon them, above and beyond their earthly desires, the assurance of thy eternal mercy ; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

Our Father, etc.

Anthem.

Reading from the Gospel, the Congregation responding as on p. 69.

Collect after Gospel.

Most gracious Father, make us willing and obedient we humbly beseech thee in this day of joyful remembrance, to receive these words of thy Son our Saviour, and for the time to come of our lives to live in pureness and humility, in charity and self-denial, and in confident expectation of thy heavenly kingdom ; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sermon.

Collect after Sermon.

Almighty God grant that we who this day remember the coming of our Lord and Saviour in great humility may remember also his doctrine and example and the deliverance which he wrought for a weary and distressed world, and may so live henceforward that through our efforts some part of the still remaining darkness may be dispelled and some part of the still remaining sorrow may be healed, and the day be hastened of his return in glory and great power.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Intimations.

Offertory.

Hymn.

Benediction.

The First Sunday of the Year

Opening Prayer.

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.

O God eternal who alone abidest while all thy creatures change and pass away; we, whose days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, cast ourselves upon thee, the unchanging. Memories, fears, hopes, joys and sorrows claim us from moment to moment and make darkness around us wherein we stumble and fall. So cause the sun of thy presence to arise upon us and so re-inforce our better resolves that throughout the coming year, being occupied but not distracted by the procession of events and emotions, we may live and grow and accomplish thy will, having our feet on the rock of thy unchanging truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Another Opening Prayer.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; in him will I trust.

Almighty God who appointest the stars their courses and sendest alternate day and night, seedtime and harvest, the splendour of Summer sunshine, and the majesty of Winter storms; grant that this new beginning of days may bring to us new impulses and visions, a livelier gratitude for the benefits we have already received, and a surer confidence in thy continuing and prevailing mercy; and that, cleansing our hearts from the old leaven of malice and wickedness, we may keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Prayer—Thanksgivings and Supplications.

O God eternal, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, who hast been our guide through all the seasons of hope, anxiety, fruition, and disappointment which have made up for us the year that is gone; we

lift our souls to thee in penitence and gratitude. As every morning brought a new sunrise to the world, so did it also bring new impulses and aspirations to our souls. From day to day thy mercy has been all-sufficing. In our necessities we have never called upon thee in vain; in joy have never been unwarned or unguided; in sorrow have never been uncomforted; in weary and ineffectual days have never been forsaken. Thou hast been to us through all the journey as a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night; thou hast often delivered us when the enemy pressed and every way of escape was blocked; thou hast drawn us out of deep waters into safety; thou hast caused us to lie down in green pastures and hast led us beside the still waters.

For whatever measure of health or of worldly prosperity we have rejoiced in during the past year, for whatever unworthy thoughts and temptations we have resisted, for whatever foolish designs we have departed from, for whatever base fears we have quelled, for whatever burdens and anxieties we have borne with patience, and for whatever impulses and acts of generosity, long-suffering, and right-doing we have by thy grace brought to good effect, we give thee humble thanks and praise, O God.

Almighty God who hast led this nation and empire of Britain through a year of changes, anxieties, glories, and sorrows; grant, O heavenly Father, that all classes and orders of the people may serve thee henceforward with a more lively sense of thy presence in human affairs to control and direct them, and of the power of justice and truth, thy ministers, to exalt the weak and put down the mighty from their seats; and so bend our wills to the obedience of thy holy commandments that alike in our legislation

and in our foreign policies we may make the law written in our hearts and in thy Word the daily and constant effort of our lives, and in all that we desire and do may follow the Gospel and example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, grant that the hope of many ages and prayer of many sons of light and of thy kingdom may be accomplished in our time and that the Prince of Peace may ascend his throne to rule over many peoples and endless ages.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Prayer after Sermon.

O God eternal and changeless who through ever-changing scenes of joy and pain, effort and rest, leadest thy people to a nobler destiny than they ever of themselves conceive; grant that, having our minds steadfastly set upon thy commandments and being continually directed by thy voice speaking to us in the events of the passing hour, we may meet with courage whatever the coming days may bring of evil or of good, being afraid of nothing that man or the world may do or threaten and fearful only of falling below those things which thou hast prepared for us and set forth in the Gospel of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

For the coming days cause thy grace, O Almighty God, to triumph over our infirmities and grant us inwardly such increased steadfastness, and in our lives such a larger harvest of good that through sunshine and storm we may trust and not be afraid, work and not be weary, suffer and not complain, overcome all evils with patience, and in

humility and peace possess our souls, in full assurance of righteousness and sanctification and wisdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

To thee, most gracious Father, we dedicate ourselves and all that we have, beseeching thee to guide our hands, our minds, and our whole energies to those things which are worthy of ourselves and pleasing to thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Easter

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

If ye then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Almighty God who through thy Son Jesus our Lord hast opened to us the gate of everlasting life; we humbly beseech thee that, being raised out of the death of sin into the life of faith and holiness, we may live henceforward wholly unto thee and may continue in such innocency and godliness that for us as for him death may be robbed of its sting and the grave of its victory; through the same Jesus who was dead and liveth for ever.

Meetings of the General Assemblies

Almighty and most gracious Father who, through thy Son Jesus our Lord, hast founded a Church and Kingdom of true believers; we humbly beseech thee for the General Assemblies of the Churches of Scotland now met (now about to meet), that they by the wise guiding of thy divine spirit may be led to the things that make for peace

and for the ending of ancient quarrels, and that by their brotherliness and charity they may magnify the Gospel and make it honourable in the eyes of the whole people.

Especially for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland we beseech thee, that thy servants therein gathered together in thy name, loving the truth and relying on it alone, may do and determine all such things as are in accordance with thy will, and that, seeking no approval save only thine, they may frame and devise such a Creed and statement of our holy Faith as shall meet the lawful desires of thy faithful people, overcome their dubieties and aversions and unite them with all good men in the works of him who went about doing good and healing all manner of disease.

In a Time of Social Unrest and Revolution

Almighty God, Lord and Ruler of nations, peoples and races, who hast ordained that in orderly government alone are rooted our true welfare and the world's prosperity; in this time of the drifting of the peoples into dark and uncharted seas and into regions of storm and disaster, we beseech thee to implant and increase in the hearts of all the nations reverence for ancient landmarks and an all-compelling sense of justice, to deliver them from a violent and impatient mind whence come outrage and destruction and a fearful heritage of sorrow and shame, and to give them wisdom to choose and to obey governors and captains who are strong, honest, faithful, servants of the truth and of thy will, that so there may be peace again, and harmony, and prosperous lands, and

fruitful fields, with all the idols cast down and thy name and greatness alone exalted.

. . . . . .

That it may please thee to give the leaders of the people wisdom to seek beauty, knowledge, self-control and all the nobler things in life as well as those that are mean and common, consideration for others, and the immovable assurance that all great things are won through patience, long endeavour, and obedience to thy will.

. . . . . .

Upon this country, we beseech thee, O God, and upon the whole world now shaken by many disquietudes, torn by rival passions, and set at variance by suspicion and mistrust, cause the light of thy justice again to shine out clearly, and grant to all classes and conditions of mankind patience, and consideration one for another, and the spirit of him who was among his disciples as one that served, that the fields may again rejoice and the workshops resound with happy labour, and the swift messengers of commerce by sea and land resume their weaving of the web of prosperity for impoverished lands.

For Infirmaries and Hospitals

Almighty God who didst send forth thy Son Jesus our Lord and arm him with the powers of a divine compassion to destroy the works of evil and restore thy lost image in man; unite us we beseech thee in the same fellowship of sympathy and of healing and grant that the mighty works which were done of old may be renewed in our time to the overcoming of disease, the relief of distress, and the brightening of the world for such as have inherited sorrow for their portion. Upon all physicians, surgeons,

and nurses, bestow the rich blessings of knowledge and skill, evermore increase in them insight and tenderness, sustain them when courage falters, and give them good success in their work of mercy and labour of love. In all houses of Pity and of Healing, especially in (the Royal Infirmary of this City) and wherever resolute hearts and kindly hands repair the ravages of disease, cause thy presence to abide, with peace and hope and comfort, the quiet mind and patient spirit, and grant that the sick and disabled, seeing the Great Physician in the persons of his servants, may have constancy of soul, resignation to thy will, and an assured faith in thy heavenly kingdom.

Spring

O God who after Winter sendest Spring and changest the face of the earth; we thank thee for the clear skies and soft winds of these pleasant days, for the springing of the grass, for the joy of the sower, and for the rich prospects of the opening year; and in thy providence we put our trust that sunshine and shower may prosper the farmer's labours and crown them with an abundant harvest.

Snowbound

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Lord of our life and of the earth, who scatterest the hoar-frost and sealest up the fountains in ice; in this winter storm we remember before thee all unsheltered birds and beasts and all the unfriended of mankind, especially sailors on wide and terrible winter seas. All

human and animal misery we bear on our hearts to thee who alone canst comfort, sustain and deliver.

For ourselves also we pray for the sustaining strength of memory and of hope. For thoughts of the waving fields and full granaries of former summers and autumns, we thank thee, and also for the promise, that the coming months will bring the waking of the earth, the singing of birds, the flowers of Spring, the sower's happy toil, and all the other blessings of thy never-failing providence. Through all changes give us faith O God in thee the Unchanging who through light and darkness, sunshine and gloom, pursuest thy constant purpose of good-will, compassion, and discipline, according to thy promise to the fathers and in the Gospel of thy Son.

Harvest

The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of our spirits with whom is no variableness.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful works to the children of men. Let them offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving and declare his works with singing.

For Favourable Weather for Harvest

O God who orderest the rising and setting suns and leadest forth the seasons in due succession so that Spring and Summer, Autumn and Winter fail not; have regard unto the needs and prayers of thy servants and of thy

great goodness grant favourable weather for the ingathering of the crops, so that once again there may be seed to the sower and bread to the eater in abundance throughout a happy, prosperous and grateful land.

Thanksgiving for Harvest

Almighty and most bountiful Father who providest for the lowest as for the highest of thy children's needs and givest food for the body year by year out of the earth as out of thy Word thou givest the bread of life for the soul; at this glad season we thank thee that the earlier and latter rains and the constant sun have once more brought the wealth of harvest and the garnering of plentiful stores of food for all creatures, and that through thy kind providence there is once more in the land seed to the sower and bread to the eater.

Giver of all good, crown thy mercies we beseech thee with the gift of a loving and grateful spirit and grant that we using wisely and as faithful stewards what thou dost bestow may enjoy the full blessedness of all that we have and at the last restore unto thee thine own with usury.

. . . . . .

Almighty and most bountiful Father who crownest the year with thy goodness; for seedtime and harvest, summer and winter, day and night, plenty and scarcity, thy constant ministers which work for man a varied life we thank thee; especially at this season of the ingathering of the fruits of the earth that thy providence hath not failed nor the farmer's labour been in vain. For what thou hast given of increase, for what thou hast withheld we thank thee, knowing that all that thou doest thou doest well.

. . . . . .

O God who openest thy hand and satisfiest the hunger of the body for food, of the eye for beauty, of the heart for love, of the mind for knowledge; thine are the fields and their increase, the hills, the plains, the sea, the sky; thine also are we who behold and wonder and are made glad by them; grant O Father that being moved to high thoughts by their majesty and being filled with their peace we may remain cheerful and contented among them obedient to thy supreme and holy will.

Our times are in thy hand; grant that in sunshine and storm alike we may find in thee strength for duty, consolation in sorrow, light in every dark way, and unfailing blessedness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, giver of the seed and of the soil, of the word and of the understanding, of the impulse and of the effort to bring purposes to good effect in our lives; teach us that good husbandry of the mind, of the heart, and of the will through which opportunities become achievements, and every labour ends in a joyful ingathering of both outward and inward wealth.

We thank thee for all the bounties of thy providence and especially this day for the sunshine and showers of the past months, and for an excellent harvest. Again has been verified thy word, that seedtime and harvest, summer and winter, shall not fail, nor the reward of any faithful work wisely and courageously done.

Continue thy goodness and be gracious to us we humbly entreat thee. Grant favourable weather for the ingathering of such fruits and crops as still remain in the field, and above and beyond all thy outward mercies grant us inwardly grace to make wise use of every experience of

wealth and of poverty, of success and of disappointment, and in all vicissitudes of fortune to live in faith and confidence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Disastrous Harvest

(*Habakkuk* iii.)

Almighty God, the portion of thy people and their eternal reward, the ministers of whose earthly beneficence are wealth and poverty, joy and despair; to our waiting souls as to thy prophet of old manifest thyself in a vision inwardly of glory and majesty, so that we may feel and know, above our little lives and within them, a wisdom which we cannot hope to fathom, whose far isles and coasts we cannot reach, a power which no human strength can contend with, a goodness which leaves no creature unblessed.

O God who for our enduring welfare sendest alternate plenty and want; like as a father watches over his children so do thou, O Father, watch over, instruct and guide us. In days of plenty grant that we may not be blinded by thy gifts nor by them be rendered hard of heart; nor, when the flock is cut off from the fold and the stalls are empty and the fields rot in the time of harvest, may forget to number those mercies which still remain.

O God most merciful; comfort our souls we beseech thee and sustain us in this evil time for the love of Christ our Lord.

For Schools and Sunday Schools

Almighty God whose Son our Lord did say, Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God; through his Gospel still

call into the shelter of thy care and love all children and especially those of this parish, that they may spend their early years in innocency, gentleness and true piety. In the fertile seedplots of their minds plant pure thoughts, generous impulses, and admiration of thy many servants who are still to us examples of holy living, that so in days to come they also to a later generation may witness for the truth and be living epistles of thy Son known and read of all men.

Bless and prosper our schools making them nurseries of piety and enlightenment; and upon all teachers bestow such constancy in well-doing and such unfaltering faith that, loving their work and being in full sympathy with children, they may labour on in confidence, trusting the issue to thee who dost suffer no word of thine to return to thee void nor any faithful service to be as water spilt on the ground.

Disaster at Sea

Almighty God who hast set mankind in the midst of giant forces, tireless servants of those who know and obey, but terrible in the vengeance they take upon the ignorant, upon the disobedient, and upon those whose tired eye or mind wanders for a moment; increase our knowledge, we beseech thee, and hasten the time when we shall live and work among thy wonders of sea and land in full security, finding in them unfailing friends and fellow-workers, and convincing witnesses to divine goodness, wisdom and power.

Comfort O Lord we beseech thee the souls of thy servants now sorrowing for friends cut off in a moment and swallowed up by the ever hungry sea; grant them

patience in their bereavement and so strong a confidence in thy wise and righteous rule that, though by reason of pain of heart, they be unable wholly to understand, they may continue to trust and hope; through the might of him who said, Not my will but thine be done.

The Propagation of the Gospel Abroad

Let thy way O Lord be known upon the earth, thy saving health among all nations.

Almighty and most merciful Father; look down, visit and behold the dark places of the earth where there is neither purpose in life, nor hope in death for thy children, nor human pity to comfort them in their sorrows; and because there is none to help and none to deliver, send thou forth thy power and save them. Overthrow the idols that usurp the places of thy majesty, destroy the superstitions which hold in an evil bondage spirits which are in thy likeness, and cause the glory of thy praise to fill the earth.

O Lord Jesus, Chief Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, who wast moved with compassion for the multitude because they were as sheep having no shepherd; mercifully regard, we beseech thee, those who know not thy name nor have heard the story of thy sacrifice. Stir up thy people everywhere, and especially in this congregation, that the needs of our brethren in far-off lands may be a burden on our hearts till we arise to help and succour, and there be labourers abundant for the harvest, to the further extension of thy Church on earth, the saving of souls, and the glory of thy name.

For the Minister and Elders of the Parish and All who work with Them

Bless and prosper we beseech thee thy servant to whom thou hast appointed the ministry of the Word in this parish and congregation, those who are associated with him in the Eldership and with him bear the vessels of the Lord, those who instruct the young in the knowledge of thee their heavenly Father and of Jesus Christ their Friend and Saviour, those who make pleasant and comely the worship of this place, and all who consecrate here what thou hast bestowed of gift or skill. Cause thy light to arise upon them, by thy continual grace and help carry them through all difficulties, and give them success in their endeavours for thy heavenly kingdom.

At the Unveiling of a Memorial to a Minister

Almighty and everlasting God who showest forth thy exceeding excellence in such as are pure, humble and gracious of mind and life; we thank thee for thy servant whom we this day commemorate; for the steadfastness, zeal and brotherly kindness which were a comfort to many during a notable ministry in this parish; for the gentleness, the wide and generous sympathy with both the prosperous and the unhappy, the simplicity of aim, the patience, godliness and piety which were an example and stimulus to all; and for the precious gift of thy unfailing grace which enabled our brother through his life and doctrine to show forth the power and charm of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and we beseech

thee that his name and memory wherewith we have sought to adorn this house of prayer may be not only constantly before our eyes, but also in our hearts to encourage, guide and strengthen; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

During a Time of General Sickness

Almighty God, gracious and long-suffering, who delightest not in the tears and misery of thy children, but in their joy and welfare; during this time of general sickness make us steadfast of purpose, untiring in the use of every expedient of alleviation and of cure, and confident that our health and happiness now and always come only from the knowledge and obedience of thy holy and righteous laws. Increase our knowledge, withhold us from every excess, confirm our courage, and give us a cheerful confidence in the goodness of the world, in the prevailing power of wise living, and in thy will for our welfare and salvation.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Minister shall say,

Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

They brought young children to Jesus that he should touch them, and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it he was much displeased and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world.

Let us pray.

Almighty God our heavenly Father who hast given childhood to brighten and make glad the common ways of the world; grant us gentleness and simplicity of heart to enter into and guide the thoughts of children, wisdom to defend them in all dangers of body and of soul, a con-

stant purpose of bringing beauty and peace around them wherever they are, and grace to be as they are in innocency and trust, that so we may enter thy heavenly kingdom.

Of thy grace and goodwill hear the prayer of thy servants who now in joy and faith dedicate to thy most holy service this child (these children) whom thou hast given and grant them the desire of their hearts, that *he* (they), being now and always under thy protection, may survive the perils of infancy, overcome the temptations of youth, and attain a gracious, wise and useful *manhood.*

And to this end grant that thy servants, watchfully guarding this, thy child and theirs (these, thy children and theirs), may gently check in *him* (them) the beginnings of evil, and by the consistency of their walk and conversation commend to *him* (them) the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name we entreat thee to receive these our prayers and to grant us thy blessing. Amen.

Addressing the parents, the Minister shall say,

You come here as members of the Christian Church requiring that your child (children) be received into the same fellowship; and you promise that so long as this child (these children) is under your care, you will instruct *him* (them) in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that in your conduct you will show *him* (them) the example of a pure, devout and Christian life.

You promise this, do you not?

Ans.—We do.

God grant you grace to fulfil this your vow.

Then the Minister shall sprinkle water on the child's face and say,

A. (or A. B.), I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

When all the children presented have been baptized, the Congregation shall repeat these words as an Anthem, changing thee *to* you *when two or more children have been baptized.*

The Minister shall then say, Let us pray.

Grant, O gracious Father, that this child (these children), being now engrafted into Christ the true vine, may evermore abide in him and may in after years show forth abundantly the fruits of gentleness and of a lively and sincere piety. Guard *him* (them), O God, from the evil of the world, from the violence of *his* (their) own desires and from the counsels of folly, and grant that, *his* (their) opening faculties opening only to those things which are good, *he* (they) may serve thee prosperously to *his* life's end (their lives' end).

Gracious Father who didst hear the prayer of the mother of this child (mothers of these children) in her (their) time of trouble; grant that she (they) may evermore hereafter live in such devoutness, and in such gentleness of thought and deed, that she (they) may worthily and through thy grace form into a wise and effective manhood (wise and lovable womanhood) this young soul (these young souls)

whom thou hast given, and that in after years she (they) may be amply rewarded for her (their) sacrifices, devotion and care by seeing her child (their children) leading a godly and sincere life.

Upon the home and household of thy servants cause thy grace and benediction so richly and constantly to abide that they may walk before thee in humbleness, faith and joy all their days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADMISSION OF CATECHUMENS

The Minister shall say,

It now falls to me by the authority of the Kirk-Session of this Parish to admit to full membership the following persons who have been under special instruction and desire in the face of this Congregation to make public profession of their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and to associate themselves with his Church.

Here the Minister shall name the persons who are to be admitted and shall thereafter address them in the following or other words.

After what has already been said to you in class and in private it is hardly necessary that I should speak to you about the Christian religion or about the obligations which membership in the Christian Church brings with it. It seems likelier to be of use that I should confine myself to some of those feelings which ought to and usually do accompany an act so momentous as that of "joining the Church."

In this act, Looking Backward and Looking Forward are combined in a single experience which may very properly be one of intense emotion.

1. The Past of your lives contains innumerable experiences once full of excitement which are now dim and half obliterated, while others, and these the most important, are wholly lost to conscious thought. Among these last

is your Baptism. In the unconscious days of your infancy it was done *for* you and not *by* you. It was the symbol of your initiation into the Christian Church, into a Christian Family, and into a Christian Civilization.

(*a*) Your parents dedicated you then to God and promised to do whatever they could to instil into your opening minds the ideas and truths of the Christian Faith; while God saw in you even then before conscious thought had begun to dawn something which would lead you in later years to cry, My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God. Baptism publicly set all this forth as a group of verities which we often forget but never seriously question when we are fully aware of what we are doing.

(*b*) Baptism is a symbol also of your belonging to a Christian family and not to a heathen, nor to an entirely irreligious one. That has meant much to you during recent years, but meant almost more during the earlier ones, and was a source of incalculable benefit to you during your earliest months. Your infant helplessness was watched over with a wakeful tenderness which would never have been had not Jesus said, Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.

(*c*) A Christian school followed with its prolongation of the same humanizing and refining influences; then came early friendships and early employments; and you were gradually moulded into a true manhood or womanhood by that delicate feeling for truth, purity and duty, by that clearer perception of the soul as man's nobler part, and by that crowning glory of sympathy with all human pain, which would never have acquired the authority they have had not Jesus lived, loved, suffered, and died.

This is the hour of your awaking. You may truly say of the Past of your lives what Jacob said after his night of vision at Bethel, Lo, God was here and I knew it not.

2. But Forward Looks are sure to come to you to-day as well as Backward ones. You are no doubt asking yourselves what your equipment is for the enterprise you are entering upon, what experience you have of that religion which is rather a life than a speculation or a ceremony, what degree of patience you are capable of in personal tribulation, how much you know of the joy of faith in God, how many of your better impulses have come to flower and fruit during the last week or two when, no doubt you have often thought about the Communion, and what sacrifices of personal inclination you are prepared to make for unfortunate people.

These questions concern the present and the immediate future.

But human life is set in a sea of eternity. Outside the small circle where things are fairly clear there are vast regions filled with vague outlines and dreamlike shapes, fading away into mere emptiness. Is there for your mental vision, however, closing the long vista of the earthly life, dim though the middle distance be, the sharply defined and shining figure of Jesus and the gleaming walls of the Father's house to which he has gone to prepare a place for you ?

Standing as you now do on the threshold of the visible Church you are standing before a magic mirror which reflects the Past with its many unsuspected cords of love drawing you on to this hour ; which reflects also the coming years which will not be so very different from those that are behind except that God will be more sensibly

present with you because of your seeking him through the Sacrament of the Supper; which reflects or reveals also the outcome and culmination of life's experience in that disciplined and perfected character which to you is now and will always continue an ideal hope, but is already a fact to God who at the beginning sees the end. You hope for what you will become; God already knows. The magic mirror declares in some sufficient measure what of character and of inward strength is now developing within you.

In the past God has been guiding you; for the present and the future it is yours to listen, to understand, and to obey. So, at the last it will be your joy when the Father calls you home that the word spoken to you was treasured as a precious thing in your heart, the task appointed punctually done, and the love bestowed a stimulus to happy and ever more efficient service.

Let us pray,

Almighty and most gracious Father, the giver and perfecter of every good purpose; look with favour on thy servants who, professing the true faith of thy Son's Gospel, consecrate themselves now, henceforward, and for ever, to thy blessed and holy service.

Be thou, O God, a wall of defence around them, and the light and joy of all their coming days. Grant them for the whole of their lives hereafter, notwithstanding whatsoever sorrows and trials may come, a heart perfect toward thee as at this time, and so plentifully increase in them thy inward gifts of faith and loyalty that they seeking with undivided desire to know and to do thy holy will, may more and more be delivered from self-will and

be changed into the likeness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

O God who alone dost bring good desires to full effect in our lives; hear this our prayer for the sake of him whose example is our wisdom, whose pains our healing, whose cross our salvation, and whose presence our strength and hope. Amen.

The Minister shall then say,

According to your desire and by authority of the Kirk-Session of this Parish I admit you into the fellowship of the Church of Christ and to membership in this Congregation. In token whereof we, the Elders of this Parish, do now give you the right hand of fellowship.

After this has been done the Minister shall say,

Now may the God of all grace who has called you to this service and implanted the love of himself in your hearts sustain and further you in every good purpose, direct your thoughts in ways of virtue and well-doing, and make you perfect in the day of Jesus Christ.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SUPPER

After the Sermon, the Thirty-fifth Paraphrase or other suitable Hymn shall be sung, and the Minister, standing at the Table, shall say,

Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with me.

I am the bread of life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth in me shall never thirst.

Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you.

Let me read in your hearing the words which the Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth, showing after what manner of outward observance we ought to commemorate the death and passion of our Lord.

The Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks he break it and said; Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup when he had supped saying; This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me.

And seeing that the inner preparation of the heart is of far greater moment than the propriety of the outward ceremony, let us draw near to Almighty God, humbly and penitently confessing our faults, giving thanks for life and a thousand daily benefits, and asking the aids of his gracious spirit to enable us for the time to come to obey his holy commandments.

Let us lift up our hearts unto God in the heavens. Let us give thanks unto God. Let us pray.

Hide thy face from our sins, O God, and blot out all our iniquities. Leave us not neither forsake us, O God of our salvation.

We thy unworthy servants confess that we have often and grievously broken thy commandments, followed our own wayward and ignorant desires, and done many things contrary to the name and Gospel of Jesus of Nazareth. But thou, O God, art gracious and long-suffering and to the sinner thou givest repentance unto life; wherefore we beseech thee of thy great compassion, visit, comfort, and relieve thy penitent children. Take off the burden of our many sins, increase our love, and so turn all our desires unto thyself that henceforward we may serve thee in singleness of heart and uprightness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most loving Father who hast put thy law in our inward parts and written it in our hearts and made us partakers of the divine nature; bring to full effect in us thy gracious purposes, and grant that all our works being done in thy fear and all our ways being directed by thy wisdom, we may live in thy peace and in the joyous service of thy heavenly kingdom.

In thee O Lord do we put our trust: let us never be confounded.

Our lips shall greatly rejoice when we sing praises unto thee and our souls which thou hast redeemed; our tongue shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long.

With thy faithful servants throughout the world we praise thee, O God, for our creation in thine image, for daily and unfailing mercies, for the pious usages of our religion, for this hour of prayer and communion, for the teaching, example, sacrifice and death of thy Son our Saviour, for his spirit effectual in many disciples, and for the promise that all hearts shall seek and all nations serve him; and we beseech thee so to bless and prosper, so to guide and sustain us that both now and for the time hereafter we may follow him in devoutness, faith and charity, to the saving of our souls and the fuller setting forth in our lives of his most excellent Gospel.

For those we beseech thee who are absent from this house to-day though present in mind and desire, for the fearful and despondent, for those who have lost their former love of thee or of thy worship, for those who still watch and pray but have not yet received the blessing, for the sick and those who wait upon the sick, for travellers by sea and land, and for such as recall among strangers the old faces and the old ways and long for home; grant, O God, that they and we, one in faith and charity, may be one also in communion with thee the Father and with thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God who hast mysteriously united body and soul in man, and through that which is outward and visible dost refresh and re-invigorate that which is inward

and spiritual; grant that this bread and wine which we now dedicate to a separate and holy use may in such wise be made to us a symbol and memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ that we receiving them faithfully may be strengthened thereby to seek those things which he loved and be one with him in the joy of thy kingdom.

Our Father etc.

The Minister while reciting the words which follow shall at the proper places take one of the pieces of bread, break it, and give to the Elders who are at the Table with him, and shall also similarly lift and give the cup. When the Elders have partaken they shall offer the bread and wine to the Minister and shall thereafter distribute them to the Congregation.

The Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread. . . . And when he had given thanks he brake it. . . . And said, Take, eat; . . . This is my body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup when he had supped saying . . . This cup is the new testament in my blood. . . . This do as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me.

While the people are partaking of the bread and wine, should their number be large and the time occupied considerable, the Minister may at intervals recite the verses which follow or some of them.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another as I have loved you.

When all the people have partaken and the Elders have returned with what remains over of the bread and wine, the Minister shall say, The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *He shall then recite the verses which are printed above or some of them, if he has not already done so, and shall then say,* Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have this day remembered the Lord Jesus in the Sacrament of the Supper may continue mindful of his love, of his patience, of his submission to thy will, and of the glory into which he is now entered, and that for our whole lives hereafter we may remain with all saints in the one fellowship of faith, humility and obedience, to be with them partakers of his felicity.

O God who dost sustain them that have their trust in thee; in every time of our distress grant us faith in thy eternal and heavenly kingdom, perseverance in every form of well-doing, and grace to be fellow-workers with Christ our Lord, sharers of his humiliation and heirs of his glory, abiding in his peace.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Then shall be sung part of Psalm 103, *or other suitable hymn, and the service shall conclude with the Benediction.*

AN ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF THE SUPPER

When there is no Sermon

The Minister, standing at the Table, shall begin the service by repeating the following verses or some of them.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will enter in by them and I will praise the Lord.

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner, This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

In the multitude of thy mercies will we come into thy house and in thy fear worship toward thy holy temple.

Turn unto us according to the multitude of thy tender mercies and hide not thy face from thy servants.

Lead us in thy truth and make us acquainted with thy faithfulness.

Almighty God Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; we thank thee for him who, coming in the likeness of sinful flesh, condemned sin in the flesh and gave power to as many as should receive him to become thy sons and daughters, and we beseech thee that being renewed in our thoughts and affections by his indwelling spirit we may come before thee with acceptance in this commemoration of his death and passion, and for the rest of our lives hereafter live in purity and self-denial and in the faithful service of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Twenty-third or other metrical psalm shall then be sung, after which the Minister shall say, Let us pray.

O God gracious and long-suffering who lovest and hast mercy upon all; we thy unworthy servants, burdened with the cares of the passing hour, neglectful of holy things, prone to deceive ourselves, weary and oppressed, cast ourselves on thy compassion declared in thy Word and in the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Have mercy upon us, O most loving and patient Father, cover our transgressions with a thick cloud, and cause the glory of thy loving-kindness so to shine within us and around that, being forgiven and restored to thy favour, we may turn to holiness and righteousness, and may praise thee both with our lips and in the courage and steadfastness of our lives.

For the forgiveness of our sins, for grace to atone for the evil we have done, and that we may abide in godly fear and piety all our days, we beseech thee, O God.

That we may never deny thee for any fear of man nor depart out of the way of thy commandments for any adversity, we beseech thee, O God.

That we may work and not faint, wait and not be discouraged, suffer and not complain, and that the Gospel of thy Son may be the light of all our seeing and our eternal joy, we beseech thee, O God.

O send out thy light and thy truth that they may lead us and bring us to thy holy hill and to thy tabernacles; then will we go to the altar of God and will praise him who is the health of our countenance and our exceeding joy.

We give thee humble and grateful thanks, O Almighty Father, for thy unfailing mercies of rising and setting suns, seed-time and harvest, summer and winter, and for those daily providences which are as a father's hand and father's voice to uphold us and instruct; for household and family joys and responsibilities; for the city in which we dwell and the country whose memories and nobler aims exalt and sanctify the passing day; for that larger country whose laws are thy commandments and whose end thy glory; for our part with all good men in the blessedness of delivering the world from the powers of darkness; for the yearning of our minds for a wider knowledge and of our hearts for a deeper peace than the world can give; for the light of thy Word; for the examples of those who walked in faith and were not afraid; for the rebukes and encouragements of thy divine spirit pleading inwardly with our spirits in every

time of our temptation; and for the crowning mercy of our redemption through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grant, O gracious Father, that being mindful of these and all thy other mercies, we may begin to know the height and depth, the length and breadth of thy love for guilty men, to the confirming of our faith, the quickening of our gratitude, and the amendment of our lives.

For the peace that is from above, for the loving-kindness which is better than life, and for the salvation of our souls, we beseech thee, O God.

Glory be to the Father, etc.

Old Testament Lesson.

Hymn.

New Testament Lesson.

Hymn.

Address.

After the address the Minister shall say, Attend to the words of the Apostle Paul in which he ordains the manner of observing the Sacrament of the Supper.

The Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks he brake it and said; Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup when he had supped saying; This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me.

To this narrative the Apostle adds the suggestive commentary,

As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup ye do

show the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.

He shall then say, Let us pray.

Almighty and most gracious Father; grant that we, remembering while we sit at his table what Jesus taught and did and was, especially what his compassion was for such as were sick in body or in soul; his patience with blinded and evil men; his taking upon himself the burdens and woes of humanity, its guilt and sin; his agony in the Garden; his willingness to die; and the blessings which he continues to bestow on a world he loved when he was a weary man in it and still loves when he has become a Prince and a Saviour: and grant also, O Gracious Father, that we, so remembering him at this rite of his appointing, may be partakers of his compassionate and loving spirit and may show forth hereafter the power of his Gospel in all that we think and do.

Enlighten us inwardly, O Almighty Father, and make us so resolute both in following and in defending the doctrine and example of our Lord that we may enter now thy eternal kingdom, to live and move and have our being in thee.

For harmony and good-will among all ranks and classes of mankind, and for the union of all Christian Churches in the bond of charity and fellowship of good works we beseech thee, O God.

For the shining of true religion in all dark places of the earth, for the overcoming everywhere of superstition and violence, and for wiser and purer ways of living we beseech thee, O God.

For thy blessing on any whose hearts are with us here to-day but who by necessary causes are withheld from this memorial of our Saviour; for thy truth to shine on them in their solitude, for thy grace to restore the faith and joy of the former days, for thy compassion to sustain them in their weariness or pain, and that our Saviour Christ may be with them though not in the bread and wine of outward communion we beseech thee O God.

For ourselves likewise we beseech thee, that throughout our whole lives hereafter we may steadfastly do those things which thou commandest, love those things which thou approvest, and bear those things which thou appointest us to suffer, after the example and through the help of thy Son, to be at the last conformed to his likeness.

Almighty God who hast made of things outward and visible, types and symbols of things inward and spiritual; grant that this bread and wine which we now set apart to a sacred use may become to us the very presence and sustaining spirit of our Lord and Redeemer, and that we, partaking of them, may grow in faith and knowledge, in meekness and charity, in love and obedience; through the same Jesus, who also taught us to pray,

Our Father, etc.

The Minister while reciting the words which follow shall at the proper places take one of the pieces of bread, break it, and give to the Elders who are at the Table with him, and shall also similarly lift and give the cup. When the Elders have partaken they shall offer the bread and wine to the Minister and shall thereafter distribute them to the Congregation.

The Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread. . . . And when he had given thanks he brake it. . . . And said, Take, eat; . . . This is my body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me.

And after the same manner also he took the cup when he had supped saying. . . . This cup is the new testament in my blood. . . . This do as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me.

While the people are partaking of the bread and wine, should their number be large and the time occupied considerable, the Minister may at intervals recite the verses which follow or some of them.

The first of all the commandments is; The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength. And the second is; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples; If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall save it.

If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

When all the people have partaken and the Elders have returned with what remains over of the bread and wine, the Minister shall say, The peace of God, which passeth

all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *He shall then recite the verses which are printed above or some of them, if he has not already done so, and shall then say,* Let us pray.

O God our heavenly Father; we humbly beseech thee to receive this our offering of prayer and this our commemoration of the death and passion of thy Son. Pardon its imperfections; supply its deficiences; and make it effectual to the overthrow of evil in our hearts, the quickening of our faith, the renewal of our love, and the increase of all holy affections and desires.

To thy service and glory we dedicate ourselves and all that we have, and beseech thee only for wisdom to discern thy will, for fortitude to endure adversity, and for grace through holy and pure living to attain thy eternal bliss; through him who was dead and liveth for ever, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn.

Benediction.

MARRIAGE SERVICE

When the Bride enters the Church a hymn may be sung.

When the Bride shall have taken her place on the Bridegroom's left hand, the Minister shall say,

Again there shall be heard the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that say ; Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for his mercy endureth for ever.

For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church and gave himself for it ; so ought men to love their wives. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Ye wives, let your adorning be in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit which in the sight of God is of great price.

We are here met to join this man and this woman in holy matrimony and to seek with them the blessing of Almighty God.

It is therefore fit that we bear in mind,

(1) That marriage has been ordained to sanctify the love of man and woman and to make their union a lasting and honourable one and a link in the long generations ;

(2) That marriage is meant to create a happy and well-

ordered home wherein husband and wife may live together in sympathy and mutual helpfulness, and meet with a united faith and courage whatsoever fortune God may send;

(3) That the essence of a true marriage lies in personal love and in that tender solicitude which husband and wife ought to have the one for the other in great things and small;

(4) That marriage being a union of love, tenderness and esteem and the corner-stone of human society is to be entered upon in the fear of God and with the full and unqualified approval of reason and conscience, not wantonly, not precipitately, and not with a view to any worldly advantage;

(5) And finally, that marriage when it is thus honourably, reasonably and piously entered upon brings to both husband and wife the blessing of a richer and kindlier humanity.

Addressing the bride and bridegroom the Minister shall further say,

Should there be any obstacle known to either of you or suspected why you may not enter upon this lifelong and intimate companionship with the blessing of God, in accordance with the laws of this realm, and with the approval of your own consciences, I warn you to proceed no farther. For, of a truth, they who are joined together otherwise than reason, conscience, and the Word of God allow, are not joined together by God, neither is their marriage lawful.

Let us pray.

Almighty God who of thy good-will to mankind and

for our comfort and perfecting hast made love betwixt man and woman and hast given marriage to sanctify love and make it honourable; most humbly do we thank thee with these thy servants that thou hast called them apart in joy and hope to unite their two lives in one and to seal their affection in thy sight and before men.

Hear their prayer, O God, and grant them their hearts' desire, that for their whole lives hereafter they may continue as they are this day in mutual trust and tenderness, greatly rejoicing in each other's society, and being united in a common faith and piety toward thee be lovers to the end, walking in ways of pleasantness and peace and an example to others of wise and godly living.

Bless and keep them we beseech thee; perfect their union in gentleness and forbearance; and grant that they as heirs together of the grace of life may seek thy will in whatsoever they purpose or do and evermore abide in joy and felicity; through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Addressing the Bride and Bridegroom the Minister shall say,

You are about to take upon you the Marriage Vows which are of lifelong obligation, and to enter upon that estate which will either rejoice or sadden all your following

days: remembering therefore what marriage demands of unselfishness and of unwearied seeking by each of the other's welfare; remembering also how dependent we are upon the aids of heavenly grace; in the sight of God and of this congregation (these witnesses), give to each other the right hand.

Addressing the Bridegroom the Minister shall say,

Do you, , take , whom you now hold by the right hand, to be your wedded wife; and do you promise in the sight of God and of this congregation (these witnesses) to be a loving and faithful husband to her till death shall separate you?

I do.

Addressing the Bride the Minister shall say,

Do you, , take , whom you now hold by the right hand, to be your wedded husband; and do you promise in the sight of God and of this congregation (these witnesses) to be a loving and faithful wife to him till death shall separate you?

I do.

When both have so promised and engaged the Minister shall say to the Man,

Have you the ring?

When the Man shall have put the ring on the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand the Minister shall say,

This ring is given and received as a seal to the vows you have taken and to the solemn promise you have made each other.

He shall direct them again to join hands and shall say,

Forasmuch as you have solemnly vowed before God and this congregation (these witnesses) and have promised to each other to live together in the holy estate of Marriage and according to God's will, I therefore pronounce you Married Persons, Husband and Wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

You whom God hath joined together let not man put asunder.

God who hath united you in holy wedlock grant you grace to live together henceforward in honour, loyalty, and good repute, in the obedience of his laws, and in helpful fellowship the one with the other.

God have you in his care and keeping from this time forth and for evermore. Amen.

An Anthem may here be sung, after which the Minister may say to the newly married persons,

It cannot be held needful that I should address you at any length on the nature and special duties of the new relation in which you stand to each other. You have heard what scripture declares concerning marriage. It is entirely at one with the universal sentiment of civilized mankind throughout the whole world. Both the Church and the civilized world declare and have always declared that personal love and that alone justifies the vows you have now exchanged, that sympathetic participation in each other's pursuits and interests alone makes marriage a constant solace and inspiration, and that a common faith in our heavenly Father alone renders married love in-

violable and sacred, and stronger than death. In the absence or decay of love, with all that love implies, marriage becomes a name merely and a mockery. The voice of scripture is equally the voice of reason and experience, "Ye are to live together in love, for ye are no longer twain but one." Marriage without love is marriage without sanctity and is abhorrent to both God and man.

Take therefore diligent heed to yourselves that your love be fed with constant acts of tenderness and self-denial, that the romance of courtship and of the honeymoon be not allowed to die out of your hearts, and that no fault of temper or of disposition be suffered to survive into this new beginning of days for you. So shall your union continue as it has this day begun to be the joy, the ornament, and the strength of your lives.

Seeing that they only are truly one in heart and inclination who are one in the fear and service of Almighty God our heavenly Father, we therefore commend you to his grace and keeping, praying that he may shield and direct you, perfect you in every virtue, and preserve you to the life eternal.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Let us pray,

Almighty and most gracious Father whose blessing thy servants have sought and in whose name they have been made husband and wife; grant that this man, loving his wife may, through all the coming years care for, cherish and protect her; that this woman loving her husband may be to him a wise and trusty companion and comrade

to further him in all his worthy undertakings; that their home, being well and orderly governed, may be to them both a sure refuge in every trouble; and that, having a good conscience toward thee and being void of offence the one to the other, they may continue one in heart and desire to their lives' end.

Enrich them with faith and devoutness, with wisdom and gladness of heart, with steadfastness and loyalty; in danger defend, in joy counsel them, and in all things so direct and sustain them that they may wholly please thee.

Go with them, O Lord, whither they go, dwell with them where they dwell, and grant that, serving thee in honesty and purity of living and walking together in love without self-will, they may find in their union continual solace and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A hymn may then be sung and shall be followed by the Benediction.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and abide with us for ever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

The newly married persons with their friends shall then withdraw to the Vestry for the signing of the Registrar's Schedule.

THE VISITATION OF THE SICK

After reading from the Scriptures the Minister shall say, Let us pray.

(*Adapted from the Prayer Book*)

Remember not our sins, most gracious Father we humbly entreat thee, nor condemn us for our ignorance and lack of faith:

Spare thy people whom thou hast redeemed, and be not angry with us for ever.

O Lord, save thy servant, who putteth *his* trust in thee. Send *him* help from thy holy place, and evermore mightily defend *him*. Be unto *him* a strong tower in this day of *his* trouble.

O Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto thee.

(Father most compassionate, behold, visit, and relieve thy servant. Look upon *him* in thy mercy, give him comfort and sure confidence in thee, defend him from the many temptations which come with weakness and pain, and keep him in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ our Lord.)

Almighty and most merciful God and Saviour; Sanctify, we beseech thee, this thy fatherly correction to thy servant, that the sense of *his* weakness may add strength to *his* faith and seriousness to *his* repentance; and grant, if it be thy good pleasure to restore *him* to (*his* former) health, that *he* may lead the residue of *his* life in thy fear

and to thy glory: (or else, that, through thy grace sustaining him, he may so take thy visitation that, after this painful life is ended, *he* may dwell with thee in life everlasting) through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O most merciful God, who dost so wholly put away the sins of those who truly repent that thou rememberest them no more; favourably regard thy servant who most earnestly desireth pardon and forgiveness. Renew in *him*, most loving Father, whatsoever hath been decayed by evil influences, or by *his* own carnal will and frailness; lessen *his* pain as shall seem to thee most expedient for *him*: and forasmuch as he putteth his trust only in thy mercy, strengthen *him* with thy blessed Spirit; and when, soon or late, thou art pleased to take *him* hence, take *him* unto thy favour, through the merits of thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, etc.

Benediction.

A Prayer for a sick person when there appeareth small hope of recovery

(*Adapted from the Prayer Book*)

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need; we come to thee for succour in behalf of thy servant here lying under thy hand in great distress. Look graciously upon *him*, O Lord; and the more the outward man decayeth, strengthen *him*, we beseech thee, so much the more in the inner man with thy grace and holy Spirit. Give *him* unfeigned repentance for all the errors of *his* past life, and steadfast faith in thy Son Jesus. And, forasmuch as to us it seemeth that

the time of *his* dissolution draweth nigh, so fit and prepare *him* against the hour of death that after *his* departure hence in peace and in thy favour, he may be received into thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thine only Son, our Lord and Saviour.

A Commendatory Prayer for a sick person at the point of departure

(*Adapted from the Prayer Book*)

Almighty God with whom do live the spirits of just men made perfect after they are delivered from their earthly prisons; we humbly commend the soul of our dear *brother* into thy hands as into the hands of a faithful Creator and most merciful Saviour; most earnestly beseeching thee that it may be precious in thy sight, and that being cleansed from all earthly defilements it may be presented before thee pure and without spot. And teach us who survive how frail and uncertain our own condition is, and so to number our days that we may seriously apply our hearts to that holy and heavenly wisdom whilst we live here, which may in the end bring us to life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ thine only Son our Lord.

A Prayer for persons troubled in mind or in conscience

(*Adapted from the Prayer Book*)

O blessed Lord, Father of mercies and God of all comforts; pity and help, we beseech thee, thy afflicted servant whose soul is full of trouble. Call to *his* remembrance

what thou hast written in thy Word for our instruction, that *he*, through patience and the comfort of thy promises, may have hope, and, putting *his* whole trust in thee, may escape out of *his* present distress and attain confidence and peace. Cause *him* to hear the voice of joy and gladness that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Lift up the light of thy countenance upon *him* and give *him* peace.

A General Prayer for the Sick

Almighty God our ever loving Father in heaven; cause these words of consolation which thou hast now given for the instruction and comfort of our *brother* to take root in *his* heart and to bring forth in *him* the gracious fruits of patience, submission to thy will, and a lively sense of thy sustaining mercy.

In *his* pain and disquietude uphold *him*, O most compassionate God and Saviour, and grant *him* the inward peace of those who know thy mercy in Jesus Christ and feel thine everlasting arms around them.

Unite *him* in one fellowship of faith and endurance with those who have walked in darkness and not been afraid, with those who though sorely wounded won the victory at last, and with those who in the silence have heard our Lord speak to them saying, Peace I leave with you.

Almighty God who dost cause them that truly know thee to be as pilgrims and strangers in this passing world, having prepared for them a better inheritance; so enlighten our *brother* in *his* present illness, and so deepen *his* sense of those things which are spiritual and eternal, that *he* may overcome all such personal desires as war against the soul, and through patience and devoutness attain thy

heavenly kingdom through the excellency of thy power in the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We, with our *brother* and with all mankind, have erred and gone astray, have been ungrateful and impatient, have followed our own wishes more than the Gospel of thy grace and truth, have been disobedient children and unprofitable servants. But thou, O merciful Father, who pardonest them that truly repent, grant to us and to our *brother* so full a sense of thy forgiveness and so sure a confidence in thy gracious will for our welfare that without fear or distress of mind we may do and suffer from hour to hour whatsoever thou appointest, knowing ourselves safe in thy compassionate and fatherly care.

O God who hast made us for thyself so that we find rest only in thee; so quicken thy servant inwardly, and speak to *him* in the silence such life-giving words, that *his* present trouble and all earthly things may be transformed by thy divine presence and by the sense of thy fatherly love; and so wholly reconcile *him* to thyself that both now and hereafter in sickness and in health *he* may abide in constant faith and confidence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Where the illness seems likely to be unto death

O God who by thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ hast destroyed for us the power and terror of death; awake now in thy servant an inward willingness to depart and be with Christ and to spend *his* remaining time here on the earth in such restfulness and patient waiting that *he* may at the last fall asleep in quietness and hope.

A General Prayer for the Sick

O God our ever compassionate Father in heaven who knowest our frame and rememberest how frail we are; in mercy hear and help thy servant who in humble submission to thy will and wisdom doth beseech of thee the blessing of restored health. In body as in soul sustain *him* in *his* disquietude and illness. Prosper the means of *his* healing, confirm and increase *his* trust in thy loving-kindness, give *him* a lively sense of thy redeeming mercy, and so change *his* present grief into strength and patience that for the rest of *his* life hereafter *he* may continue in purity of thought and of deed, in devout service of the Gospel, and in the love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

O God who dost effectually answer the prayer of all who are distressed when they cast themselves on thy mercy; bear up thy servant in the deep waters in which *he* is now struggling, renew *his* courage, confirm *his* faith, in *his* regret for unfruitful and idle hours assure *him* of thy forgiving grace, and cause to pass before *him* a vision of the Man of sorrows who for us sinners endured the cross and is now set down at thy right hand.

For an Aged Person

Almighty God who hast been with thy servant through many eventful years and hast provided with unfailing kindness for *his* ever changing needs; continue we beseech thee thy loving-kindness through the evening hours which now approach (which *he* has now reached) when strength decays and the shadows darken. Fill *his* soul with gratitude for the long years *he* has enjoyed of health and of

useful work, for the pleasant resting places beside still waters to which from time to time thou didst lead *him*, for thy sustaining grace in weariness and disappointment, for the peace and comfort of the present, and for the friends who now support *his* weakness and gladly minister to *his* increasing wants.

If it be thy gracious will cause the evening to be still and calm, full of pleasant memories, kindly thoughts, and happy anticipations.

Gracious Father who by means of the increasing weakness of thy servant hast called *him* out of the bustle and strain of the world into the silence of thy immensity to be alone with thee; grant that the cross of our Saviour, shining in the gloom, may remind *him* of the price that was paid for our redemption; and should pain or distress come, (in *his* pain and distress) lead thy servant to the Garden where by night our Friend and Brother cast himself on the ground and said, Not my will, Father, but thine be done.

Feed thy servant, O God, we beseech thee, with that bread which cometh down from heaven whereof if a man eat he shall never hunger, and refresh *him* with that water which shall become in *him* a well of water springing up unto eternal life.

For a Sick Child

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, he shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom.

Of thy loving-kindness, O heavenly Father, restrain the disease in this suffering child and grant *him* a happy recovery. Spare *him*, O God, and raise *him* up, that in the coming years *he* may (play a man's part) grow in

wisdom and in grace, become rich in virtue and in good deeds, and spend many happy and useful days in thy service and in that of *his* brethren; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God who didst give this child into the keeping of thy servants to be to them a common care and delight, to knit them together in yet tenderer bonds, and with the passing months to interweave *himself* ever more closely with their plans for the future and their holiest affections; have regard, O merciful Father, to their pain and distress, and grant them the longing and prayer of their hearts, even the life of their child.

Lord of our life and giver of all wisdom, who callest thy children home, early or late, when thy purpose with them here is accomplished; amid the many distractions and perplexities which belong to this world, evermore endow us with the trustful and loving disposition of little children, and with faithfulness, whatever terrors be around us, to love and pursue what is true, gentle, heroic, and unselfish, after the example of him who fulfilled all righteousness in a life of poverty, humiliation and pain.

For a Sick Child where there appears small hope of recovery

Thou, O heavenly Father, seest not as man seeth, nor judgest as man judgeth. Thy mercy surrounds our little lives as the sky overarches the earth, and still beyond our farthest seeing there is wealth unimaginable of fatherly kindness. Thy thoughts are very deep, and thy ministers of suffering as of joy work only for our good. Wherefore we beseech thee, O gracious and loving Father,

create in thy anxious and distressed servants so great a trust in thee and so lively a faith in thy wise providences, that they may commit their child for life or death to thy most loving care, believing and knowing that thou in thy good time wilt disclose to them that which is now hidden, and wilt cause their souls to rejoice, whether the present issue be a deeper sorrow or a happy deliverance. Thy will, O Father, be done.

After a Death

Most gracious and loving Father; calm, we beseech thee, the troubled souls of thy bereaved servants, and so confirm their confidence in thy promises that even while their loss and grief are fresh, they may remember thy daily and unfailing mercies to our *brother* whilst he lived, and with grateful hearts give thanks that thou hast delivered *him* from tribulation and sorrow, and borne *him* through the dark waters in which *he* struggled for a while, and brought *him* to the shining city where pain and striving cease.

We thank thee, O merciful God and Father, for all those known to us and unknown, who have led brave and useful lives, drawing their breath in thy fear, especially for those who knew thee in the face of Jesus Christ thy Son; and we beseech thee of thy great goodness to bestow upon us the like grace that we, following the same blessed and holy example in purity, meekness, devoutness and charity, may show forth in our lives the joy and power of the Gospel, and through our obedience to thy commandments and our steadfast doing of thy will, attain at the last thy eternal felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AT THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

The Minister shall read such of the following or other portions of Scripture as shall seem to him appropriate.

From the Old Testament.

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

We are strangers before thee and sojourners as were all our fathers; our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

As for man his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

We spend our years as a tale that is told. The days

of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

From the Gospels.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you.

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Let your loins be girded about and your lamps burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open to him immediately.

From the Epistles.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor

crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Let us pray.

A selection may be made from the paragraphs and phrases which follow.

O God who alone abidest while all thy creatures change and pass away; we give thee humble and hearty thanks for thy servants who, after having fulfilled their appointed time here on the earth, have been made partakers of the inheritance of the saints through our Saviour Jesus Christ; especially for our brother and friend

whose faith and patience (through a long and honourable life)

whose wisdom—tenderness—courage—loyalty—devotion

whose many labours and strong—gracious—*manhood*

whose young *manhood* darkened ere it came to noon

we remember sorrowing, yet not as those sorrow who have no hope.

In the loneliness of this house and hour and with many tender memories, we recall with heart-felt gratitude

the many fine and generous—strong—amiable—qualities of our *brother* which greatly endeared *him* to his friends.

thy unfailing goodness to our *brother* both in the former days when strength and joy abounded, and in these later ones when the clouds were gathering and the natural force abated.

We thank thee, O gracious Father,

That thou didst enrich thy servant with both the spirit of true religion and with its gracious fruits, with a kindly disposition and a brave and enduring heart;

That thou didst bless *him* with domestic love and felicity in a united and happy home,—didst comfort *him* in *his* declining years with the love and devotion of the children whom thou hadst given *him*—and didst add to *him* the esteem and affection of many friends ;

That thou didst keep *him* in the true faith of our Lord Jesus Christ,—didst give *him* unfeigned love of thy Son's Church,—in *his* troubles, distresses and pains, didst uphold *him* in patience, cheerfulness and piety, and in every dark passage of *his* life didst preserve in *him* that peace which passeth all understanding which the world can neither give nor take away ;

That thou didst signally endow *him* with many rare gifts of mind and disposition—didst give *him* in full measure the joy of life, with few of its pains and none of its weariness—and didst bring *him* to a place of honour in this *city* ;

That without pain or distress (and at a great age) thou hast called *him* to *his* eternal rest ;

That thou didst grant *him* the happiness of the man that findeth wisdom and getteth understanding ;

That during the last sad days (weeks, months) thou didst uphold *him* in the Valley of the Shadow and didst cause thy truth and grace to sustain *him* ;

That thou didst comfort him when the light was low and didst make *him* steadfast both to do and to suffer thy holy will ;

And finally that thou hast delivered *him* from the pains and distresses of this mortal life when life had grown—had suddenly become—was about to become—a weariness and burden, and hast given *him* to fall asleep in Jesus.

Thanks and praise be unto thee, O God most gracious,

Lord most loving, for all the kindnesses thou didst bestow on thy servant, and for the promise that *he* and all they who fall asleep in thy Son Jesus our Lord are preserved unto a glorious awakening.

Father most compassionate, who hast appointed unto man but a few days to live and the end of them sorrow; we thank thee for the Word of thy grace, and for the promise that they who die in faith do not die eternally.

O blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who art the resurrection and the life unto all them that believe; so teach us the way of life and of thy humility, that here we may abide in the light and joy of thy Gospel, and at last fall asleep in quietness and hope.

O Holy Spirit the Comforter who leadest into all truth; enlighten and sustain us in our various perplexities, and bring us, through patient godliness, to the land of our desire.

Most gracious and loving Father, our sure refuge in trouble; comfort, O Lord we beseech thee, the souls of thy servants who were bound in strong ties of blood or of affection to our *brother*, and change their sorrow into peace;

For a Husband or Wife

Especially we beseech thee for this household and for thy servant whose life-long friend and hourly companion has been taken from *his* side.

For a Young Man or Woman

Especially we beseech thee for the parents of thy servant who watched and rejoiced in *his* growth from infancy to a wise and gracious *manhood*, happy in *himself*

and a source of happiness to others ; also for *his* brothers and sisters who grew with *him* and shared *his* joys and experiences.

Visit, relieve, and uphold *him* (them) O merciful Father ; lighten *his* burden, confirm *his* faith in thy wise and gracious providences, and so stablish *him* in thy Son's Gospel that *he* may await in patience the perfect fruit of this *his* trial, holding fast the assurance of thy mercy and the blessed hope of eternal life, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Comfort thou them, O merciful Father, whom thou hast afflicted and raise up them whom thou hast cast down.

O God eternal and all-wise who hast ordained for man that here we have no continuing city nor sure place of abode ; so prepare our wills for every call of duty and so strengthen us in every conflict that we may be resolute and enduring notwithstanding whatsoever trials may arise, patient in tribulation, faithful in our several tasks, and whether we abide in this world or depart from it may glorify thee in our bodies and in our spirits which both are thine.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom, and may never for any fear of man or terror of death depart from thee.

O God our help in every extremity ; in the hour when flesh and spirit fail, sustain us we beseech thee in our many pains, weaknesses and temptations, and grant that we may at the last depart out of this world in the love of thee, in charity with all men, and in full assurance of the life everlasting ; through him who was dead and liveth for ever Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thou O most merciful Father hast created us in the image of thyself;
Thou hast made us partakers of thine eternity;
Thou hast taken us into the secret places of thy counsels;
In thee we live and move and have our being.

Thou hast darkened our path and weakened us in the way;
Thou hast spoken things too great for us to understand;
Thou hast called forth terrors and we are afraid;
Our souls cleave to the dust and are distressed.

O Lord, turn us unto thyself and rekindle our faith;
Restore unto us the joy of thy salvation;
Unite us with thyself that we may triumph over all our fears;
To thee, O merciful Father we cry; in thee do we hope.

O holy Lord and man of sorrows who for guilty man didst bear the bitter cross; in all the joys and distresses that make our life we turn to thee, the human heart and voice in whom we know and adore the fullness that filleth all;

Thou O Christ hast borne our griefs and carried our sorrows and hast known the bitterness of tears;

Thou hast suffered and been in great distress and hast said, Let this cup pass from me;

O Lord, succour thy servants and grant them thy peace.

The peace of God which passeth all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with us now and abide with us for ever. Amen.

Or, after the prayers on p. 144, *the following prayer may be used.*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, the light and joy of them that know thee; teach us the way of life in thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and grant that being overcome by no present sorrow of heart nor failing through any distrust of thy help and succour, we may live n devoutness and patience and in the end attain everlasting life, through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Father, etc.

The peace of God, etc.

At the Grave the Minister shall say—

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in me though he were dead yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God to take out of the world the soul of our deceased *brother* we therefore commit *his* body to the ground; *earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,* in the sure hope that as *he* has borne the image of the earthly *he* shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me: From henceforth, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying; neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous Father who lovest and hast mercy upon all; we humbly thank thee for the godly examples of those thy servants who have lived in patience and well-doing and in the faith of thy Son's Gospel and especially for our *brother* now departed, and we beseech thee that through the power of the same Gospel we who remain may continue in such charity and uprightness toward all men and in such confidence toward thee, that death may for us be robbed of its sting and the grave of its victory, and that at the last we may fall asleep in quietness and hope and in full assurance of the life everlasting; through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and abide with us for ever. Amen.

At the Burial of a Child

I. *At the House*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

Like as a father pitieth his children so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom.

And David said, While the child was yet alive I fasted and wept; for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

Suffer the little children to come unto me, saith the Lord, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

It is not the will of your Father that one of these ittle ones should perish. In heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

Let us pray.

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for succour but of thee, O Lord? Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayers.

Almighty and most compassionate Father who after joy hast brought sudden pain on the parents of this child; speak thou to them out of the darkness and comfort them that their grief may not be unto distrust of thy gracious and wise care for them; but of thy great goodness teach them that this young life which came to them (which flickered for a few moments on the earth) and passed away and knew no stain is everlastingly with thee and

is still with these thy servants to be an eternal possession and sacred memory.

The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord.

O God our refuge in every trouble; be gracious unto thy servants and grant that even now while thy face is hidden they may continue steadfast in patience and hope, in prayer and gentle deeds, and in full confidence that dawn will at length arise on them dispelling the sorrows of night.

(We thank thee that thou didst hear the prayer of thy servant in her time of trouble and didst support her and didst bring her up out of the darkness and from the gates of death. Confirm and perfect her health, we beseech thee, and grant that, being mindful of the mingled hope and sorrow of these days, she may evermore hereafter live in entire devoutness of spirit, in gentleness of thought and deed, and in the faithful following of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.)

Upon the home and household of thy servants cause thy truth and benediction so to abide that they may walk before thee in humbleness, faith, and piety all their days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The peace of God, etc.

Another prayer for use in the house

Almighty and most compassionate Father whom the pure of heart alone can know; we thank thee that thou didst lend this child to thy servants for a little while to brighten and sanctify their home, to be a common care and delight to them, and now an everlasting possession; and we beseech thee to grant them such a humble trust

in thy good will to them that even in this hour of their disappointment they may with unfeigned gratitude thank thee for the brief joy thou gavest, and may also be content that thou shouldst take their child away from them and give *him* thus early the inheritance of thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord.

Other prayers may be added out of the General Service.

II. *At the Grave.*

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me though he were dead yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God to take out of the world the soul of this child we therefore commit *his* body to the ground; *earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,* in the sure hope that as he has borne the image of the earthly he shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

God shall wipe away all tears from off all faces.

Let us pray.

O God our heavenly Father whose kingdom is of the pure of heart; grant us the innocency and trustfulness of little children, and to be always seeking the guidance of higher powers, knowing our own feebleness and aware of dangers on every hand.

Amid the changing and perishing things of this passing

world, grant that our hearts may evermore be set on that inheritance which fadeth not away and that we may live in such honesty toward one another and in such confidence toward thee that at the last death may be robbed of its sting and the grave of its victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, etc.

ORDINATION OF MINISTERS

After the psalm or hymn following the sermon the presiding minister shall say—

Let us pray.

Gracious Father who hast called us into the company and brotherhood of such as follow the Lord Jesus in faith and innocency of life; uphold and instruct us we beseech thee, and grant that, finding our wisdom in his Gospel and our strength in his indwelling spirit, we may become faithful servants of thy purposes, in joyous expectation of the day promised of old, when no one shall live without purpose, suffer without pity, or die without hope, but all knowing thee from the least even unto the greatest shall dwell together in brotherly love and kindness, preparing the final triumph of thy grace and power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The presiding Minister shall then say—

The Presbytery of is here met for the purpose of ordaining Mr to the holy ministry, and thereafter of inducting and admitting him to the pastoral charge of this parish (of inducting and admitting Mr to the pastoral charge of this parish) (of ordaining Mr to the holy ministry).

The narrative shall here be read, after which the presiding minister shall say—

It is now my duty to put to you, Mr , and to call upon you to answer the following questions appointed by the law of the Church.

1. Do you believe the Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the supreme rule of faith and morals?

Answer—I do.

2. Do you believe the fundamental doctrines of the Christian Faith contained in the Confession of Faith of this Church?

Answer—I do.

3. Do you acknowledge Presbyterian Church government as now settled by law to be the only government of this Church; and do you promise to submit thereto, concur therewith, and never endeavour, directly or indirectly, the prejudice or subversion thereof?

Answer—I do.

4. Do you promise to submit yourself willingly and humbly in the spirit of meekness unto the admonitions of the brethren of this Presbytery; and to be subject to them, and all other Presbyteries and superior Judicatories of this Church where God in his providence shall cast your lot: and that according to your power you shall maintain the unity and peace of this Church against error and schism, notwithstanding of whatsoever trouble or persecution may arise: and that you shall follow no divisive courses from the present established doctrine, worship, discipline and government of this Church?

Answer—I do.

5. Are not zeal for the honour of God, love to Jesus Christ, and the desire of saving souls, your great motives and chief inducements to enter into the function of the holy ministry and not worldly designs and interest?

Answer—They are.

6. Have you used any undue methods either by yourself or others in procuring this call?

Answer—I have not.

7. Do you engage in the strength and grace of Jesus Christ our Lord and Master to rule well your own family, to live a godly and circumspect life, and faithfully, diligently and cheerfully to discharge all the parts of the ministerial work to the edification of the body of Christ?

Answer—I do.

The following question is to be put only when the person ordained is also to be invested with the office of pastor over the congregation present.

8. Do you accept of and close with the call to be pastor of this parish and promise through grace to perform all the duties of a faithful minister of the Gospel among this people?

Answer—I do.

The questions having been answered, the presiding minister shall say,

Almighty God accept and bless thee, and by the power of his spirit upon thee enable thee to fulfil thy ministry to his glory and the edifying of the Church of Christ. Amen.

After an interval for silent prayer, a hymn may be sung.

The presiding minister shall then descend from the pulpit and, the other ministers standing around him, shall say,

(*When a Minister previously ordained is inducted to a pastoral or other charge all that follows to the last line on p.* 156, *at the words,* "*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,*" *shall be omitted.*)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, source of every blessing and giver of all good gifts; we adore and magnify thy name and give humble and hearty thanks for thy crowning mercy in Jesus Christ thy Son who, according to thy eternal purpose, came into our guilty world weak that we might be made strong, was despised and rejected that we might receive glory and immortality, and died that we might be heirs with him of thy holy and everlasting kingdom: also we thank thee for his Gospel and indwelling spirit which still create and sustain in those who are his followers faith in things unseen, hope in thy mercy, compassion for evil-doers, patience in suffering, and love one of another: and finally we thank thee for the promise of the future, dim to our mortal vision but sure in thy unchanging purpose of evil overcome, sin destroyed, mortality swallowed up of life. To thee, O gracious and loving Father, be glory and praise for ever and ever.

Be pleased, O Almighty Father, to bestow thy favour and benediction on this thy servant, chosen by thee and fitted to be a pastor and teacher in thy Church, whom we, BY THE LAYING ON OF HANDS, do now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ set apart to the holy ministry.

So stablish and further him by the powerful aids of thy Holy Spirit that he may never be drawn aside by any

temptation from the true holding and practice of the faith which he has now professed, nor be discouraged by the falling of much good seed on stony ground and among thorns.

So enrich him with insight, sympathy and a gentle and humane spirit that he may heartily give himself to every good and profitable work in this parish, may comfort such as have been wounded in the battle, and may win offenders with never-failing charity.

So write thy law in his heart and so sustain him in faith, devoutness and piety that he may be a sure guide to such as have lost their way and a steadfast light in every storm.

So fortify him inwardly that with wise and faithful admonitions he may encourage and restore those who grow weary in well-doing, and may never be withheld by any fear from rebuking such as by their passions or their selfishness corrupt the purity of the Gospel.

So subdue his will to thine and so wholly unite him with thyself that in all contendings he may be strong and of a good courage and play the man for righteousness and the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

So accept, bless, counsel and evermore preserve and guide him that at last with all thy wise and faithful servants he may be received into everlasting joy.

Hear us, O God, in these our prayers for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(*The* "Gloria Patri" *or other suitable hymn may then be sung.*)

Then the presiding minister shall say to the newly ordained minister,

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Great King

and Head of the Church, and by authority of this Presbytery, I admit you to the pastoral charge of this parish and congregation, and in token thereof we, the Ministers of the Presbytery, give you the right hand of fellowship.

Thereafter, Charges shall be given (1) *to the newly ordained minister and* (2) *to the congregation.*

Then shall follow this prayer,

Almighty and most gracious Father who didst in the fullness of the time send forth thy Son Jesus our Lord to establish a church and kingdom of such as through their faith and pureness of living should overcome the evil and sorrow of the world; we thank thee that there hath never failed a witness of thy grace and truth, and that in this land from ancient days thou hast caused the light to abide and hast given the Church of Scotland for the comfort and upbuilding of the people, and we beseech thee that both now and in days to come both ministers and people may continue rich in knowledge, pure in faith, unfailing in charity, fervent in prayer and unwearied in acts of devoutness and piety, and that with unceasing endeavour they may in word and deed show forth the excellency of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Prosper, we beseech thee, the ministry which has this day begun in this parish, and grant that being perfected in understanding and trustfulness it may yield continual solace and instruction to this people, be the joy and pride of his life to the Minister, foster Christian fellowship among those who seek thee elsewhere, and strongly draw such as know thee not nor regard thine ordinances.

To this end so constantly instruct and sustain thy

ordained servant that he may not only in his preaching be earnest to reprove, beseech and exhort with patience and persuasive doctrine, but may also be a wholesome example in his conversation and godly living; and for this people we beseech thee that as they, from a good desire to continue in the fellowship of thy Church have invited our brother to labour among them, so, highly esteeming him for his work's sake and waiting diligently on his ministry, they may live together in brotherly kindness, and continually grow in the knowledge of thee and in all virtue.

Grant, O Almighty Father, that the word of thy grace continually spoken here may persuade and enable both minister and people to live in uprightness, charity and long-suffering, and in all they purpose or do to seek thy glory and the increase of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ORDINATION AND ADMISSION OF ELDERS

After the Sermon the Minister shall say,

The Kirk-session having resolved to add to the number of Elders of this Parish have made choice of A. B. and C. and have appointed their ordination and admission to take place to-day ; also of D., already an Elder of the Church of Scotland, and have appointed his admission likewise to take place this day ; of all which intimation was duly made and no objection has been offered.

I therefore put to you who are to be ordained and appointed and to you who are to be appointed the Question which the General Assembly has ordered to be put to Elders on their Ordination, or Admission.

Do you approve of the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of this Church, and promise never, directly or indirectly, to attempt the prejudice or subversion thereof ?

Answer—I do.

Let us Pray.

Almighty and most gracious Father who didst in the fullness of the time send forth thy Son Jesus our Lord to establish a church and kingdom of such as through their faith and pureness of living should overcome the evil and sorrow of the world ; we thank thee that there has never failed a witness of thy grace and truth, and that in this

land from ancient days thou hast caused the light to abide and hast given the Church of Scotland for the comfort and upbuilding of the people; also that thou hast associated Elders with Ministers in the discipline and government of the Church; and we beseech that these thy servants whom we now in the name of Jesus Christ the great King and Head of the Church appoint to be Ruling Elders in this parish may never by any enticement be drawn aside from the true holding and sincere practice of the Faith which they have now professed, but being devout and of good conscience toward thee, upright in their dealings, considerate to those who do evil, compassionate to such as are in trouble, diligent in the office they have undertaken, and prudent in administering the affairs of this parish, they may fulfil their ministry to the comfort of this people and the saving of their own souls, to receive at the last a crown of righteousness from the Lord, the righteous judge, who ever liveth and reigneth with thee the Father and the Holy Spirit world without end. Amen.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I declare you Ordained Elders of the Church of Scotland and do now receive and admit you to the duties of that office in this Parish and Congregation.

Almighty God who alone doth bring our good purposes to full accomplishment assist and prosper you in the office which you have embraced and keep you always in his love and service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An appropriate hymn may here be sung, and, save when the duties of Elders and the relation of Elders to

the Congregation have been already dealt with in the Sermon, Addresses shall be given (1) *to the newly appointed Elders and* (2) *to the Congregation. Then the Minister shall say,* Let us pray.

Graciously cause thy favour, O God, to rest upon this Parish and Congregation, and especially upon thy servants who have been set apart to bear the vessels of thy house, and grant that they and the people, abiding in unbroken charity and trustfulness, may in all spiritual things be helpful the one to the other.

Grant, O Almighty Father that the word of thy grace continually spoken in this place may enter into our hearts and grow strong therein, and that, issuing forth in pure deeds and pious services, it may return to thee who gave it, having accomplished the thing whereunto thou didst send it.

Bless this house and guard thy servants and cause thy peace to possess our hearts, for the love of Christ our Lord. Amen.

The law of the Church of Scotland requires that at a meeting of Kirk-Session to be held after the Service the newly appointed Elders shall sign the Formula and receive the right hand of fellowship.

Perhaps a better arrangement is to give the right hand of fellowship in face of the congregation after the Blessing on page 160 *and before the hymn.*

COLLECTS AND PRAYERS

As the day sinks and the majesty of night approaches, we lift our souls to thee, the All-bountiful. This day thou hast opened thy hand liberally and satisfied the desire of the eye for beauty, of the mind for truth, of the heart for love, of the soul for an infinite compassion on which to lean and be safe. With the evening have come the new blessings of rest, of peaceful meditation, and of being alone with thee. Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice: the beginnings of our days and the ends of them are thy praise. Grant O God, that whatever may be the new days of effort and endurance that are in store for us we may go forth in them confidently at thy summons, strong in faith and in resoluteness to accomplish the work which thou mayst give us to do; whatever may be the new evenings and silent hours which thou mayst vouchsafe, grant that in them we may question our hearts and recall the ways in which thou hast led us, and surely know thee for a shelter in the storms of life, a light in its darknesses, a strong defence in danger. Through the new week which has now opened for us, further us in our various employments, and grant that, not being tempted above that we are able to resist, nor burdened beyond our strength, nor led in ways too dark and lonely for our faith, we may continue steadfast in piety, in humbleness of mind, in prayer, and

in the fellowship of those who love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Most gracious Father, who for every new generation preparest a new and greater blessing; we humbly thank thee for the hopes and prospects of the time that now is, when to our dim vision the Day of the Son of Man appears to be near at hand, bringing peace to a tortured and bleeding world, with the ending of all rivalries among the nations save that in love and noble deeds. Grant, O gracious Father, that the light which has arisen may continue and broaden to the perfect day; scatter, we beseech thee, the gloom in which evil things grow strong, and arm with might and victory the Gospel of thy Son.

O God who desirest that all should know thee, and knowing thee, be delivered from haunting memories of a past time of transgression; take from us the hard and stony heart which cares only for that which serves the selfish purpose of the moment, and make us responsive to the wisdom, power and goodness which shine forth in all the things which thou hast made, to the striving of thy spirit with our spirits, and to the cross and sacrifice of him in whom for a while thou didst dwell with us, a man with men, Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, all-seeing, who lookest on the heart and art served by strangers when the children of the house dishonour the holy name by which they are called; increase in us a loyal, sympathetic and generous disposition, open to every sorrow, eager to choose the nobler part, and fearful of no censure of the world, that as true disciples

of him who went about doing good, we may our whole lives long resist the proud, sustain the humble, and return to thee at last, to obtain a crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God who hast placed us amid diverse temptations and dowered us with impulses and passions which lead to evil as well as to good; create in us so constant a reverence for thy law and commandments and so confirm in us all pious usages, that even in the rush and strain of contentious living we may act with care, prudence and watchfulness, and have our lives fruitful in kindnesses, our souls unstained, our bodies temples in which thou dwellest, and all we think and do ordered by the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose ear is ever open to the distressed; hear our cry and supplication in every time of our overthrow, and grant us such godly sorrow for our sins of self-will and our indiscretions, that being drawn nearer to thee by what we suffer, we may love thee more because we have been greatly forgiven.

Almighty God who art unchanging in thy purpose of bestowing benefits upon mankind, and art still blessing us when thou rebukest our pride and turnest to nought our foolish counsels; grant us so prevailing a sense of thy grace and good-will, that neither being blinded by past successes nor deluded by empty dreams of an unknown future, we may endure with patience the strain and many disquietudes of the present, meet the duties of the passing

hour with a resolute and cheerful spirit, and under all checks and delays of fortune seek the peace of the land whither thou hast brought us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and most gracious Father who hast called us unto a service which grows hard only when we fail in wisdom and loyalty; deliver us, we beseech thee, from the dominion of the passing hour and from its passions and rivalries, and give us so clear a vision of the Son of man and so steadfast a faith in his Gospel that we may become partakers of his charity, of his hopes for mankind, and of his confidence in thy fatherly care and kindness. Our hope is in thee, O God; in thy help only do we trust. Sustain us both in the struggle that now is, and in the last parting when, through darkness and defeat, we shall enter upon the everlasting triumph which thou hast prepared for the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, infinite and eternal, whose will toward us for our good is ever greater than our prayers; in the battle of life grant us courage, and in all our difficulties constancy of endeavour, so that even when the task is heavy and our labour seems in vain, we may still work and fight and pray, having our hearts set upon these treasures of the spirit which alone bring lasting joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God who hast set forth thy blessed and holy Son to be our example in devotion and our solace in trouble; grant that through faith, patience and prayer we may accomplish the task which thou givest us to do,

and hearing afar off the songs of them that triumph, may endure to the end and obtain with them the like reward; through their Saviour and ours, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Enlighten and instruct thy servants, O God we beseech thee. We snatch at every fleeting joy; grant us a firm purpose to reject the evil and choose the good. We pine for the far-off promise of the years; grant us patience to wait and work and prepare. When blasts of wintry fortune beat upon us, sustain us with the hope of brightening skies and calmer days. In the glitter and frenzy of the passing hour, remind us of that life which proceeds from strength to strength unerringly; and so possess our weak and erring natures with thy truth and steadfastness that we may continue in piety, in the obedience of thy holy laws, and in the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord.

With humble and grateful hearts we adore thee, O gracious Father, for the excellence of thy loving-kindness in that thou withdrawest not thy sympathy from thy rebellious and forgetful children when in a far land they waste their substance in riotous living, nor yet from those remaining at home in the sunshine of thy presence who yield thee only a stinted and grudging service. Thou art holy, yet rejectest not the sinner; bountiful in thy gifts, yet patient with the self-satisfied and the ungrateful. Reject us not, O gracious and loving Father, though we have wandered away from thee, broken thy laws, despised thy love, and squandered thy best gifts; nor leave us in our folly though we have been righteous in our own eyes and unrelenting to offenders; but awake in us again the desire

to be thy children not in name only but also in purity of life, in loyalty of service, and in tenderness to wrong-doers. So increase in us the charity of the Gospel and of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, that, being patient with those who, like ourselves, see and do not perceive, know and do not understand, nor lay to heart the greatness of thy gifts and the poverty of their gratitude, succouring also according to our powers and opportunities such as are in need, and living in good-will and sympathy with all men, we may remain in unbroken communion with thee, our heavenly Father; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who dost instruct and admonish, not alone by the spoken word and by commandments and laws, but also by events which come silently, bringing new duties and changing our desires; grant us a wise and understanding heart to interpret truly what our memories preserve of former good and evil, and to make of all experience lamps shining on our path as we move from step to step, guiding stars for our voyage over treacherous and stormy seas, and voices declaring thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God whose wisdom is high and wide as the heavens and ever brings to shame the prudence of worldly men; so speak inwardly to our hearts and so fortify us with the knowledge of thy righteousness that, notwithstanding whatsoever opposition may arise, we may always think and act with entire loyalty, seeking truth only; and, not abiding in our tents when the enemy is in the field, but taking to ourselves the whole armour of the just and godly man, may from hour to hour do man-

fully what the hour requires, mindful that we are thy servants and fellow-soldiers of Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, gracious and long-suffering, our helper in every difficulty; grant us steadfastness when our hearts fail by reason of the heavy burdens which our faults and sins do continually lay upon us; lighten us inwardly when the way is dark; uphold us when the flesh is weak; and so sustain us through all delays and obstructions that we may continue devout, sincere, and charitable in all we think or do, and may abide in the land of peace and of the quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and most gracious Father who, through the teaching and example of thy Son, Jesus our Lord, hast declared the true way of life and of happiness; grant us a devotion to thy will so great and so unfailing that we may our whole lives long strive for what is true, just, and for the good of our neighbours, persist with undaunted courage through all difficulties, and under all temptations continue loyal to Christ and his Gospel, to obtain at the last the witness of a good conscience; and, knowing that the work is finished which thou gavest us to do, may withdraw from scenes of conflict and labour in a sure and certain hope of the life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, who in a world of change hast placed eternity in our hearts and hast given us power to discern good from evil; grant us such entire sincerity that we may persistently and under all difficulties seek the things that endure, refusing those which perish with the desires that

beautified them, and that, amid things vanishing and things deceptive, we may see the truth steadily and follow the light faithfully and grow ever richer in that love which is the life of men; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God our heavenly Father whose Son Jesus had compassion on the multitude when they were scattered abroad having no shepherd; so cause his teaching and example to dwell and become strong in us and in all Christian people that they and we, knowing in what image thou madest man, what service thou requirest of thy children, and what destiny thou hast prepared for them that love thee, may live in the lives and joyfully bear the burdens of our brethren, and be fellow-labourers with thy Son in the redemption of the world; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Almighty God who in thy Word hast made known to us the ruin and misery which attend the breaking of thy holy laws, and hast confirmed this sure doctrine by the experience of every age and land; maintain in us and continually increase reverence for thy will and for thy gracious ordinances, resolution in overcoming temptations of the world and of the flesh, loyalty to our own convictions, and an open mind and receptive heart for every intimation of thy presence, so that in the end we may not fail of the welcome, Well done, good and faithful servants.

O God who hast crowded the earth, the rocks, the trees, the fields, the rivers and the sea with living creatures and dost so care for them all that not a sparrow falls to the ground without thee; grant that we may never,

through any lack of thought or failure of sympathy, give needless pain to anything that lives and feels, but may unfailingly defend and protect those humbler creatures which like ourselves are pensioners on thy bounty, that so their joy in living may be richer and fuller through their being in the power of those who are made in thine image to know and understand and feel.

O God who hast set forth many saints and heroes to be lamps on the way to life and examples of noble living; grant that we also may be helpers of our brethren, drawing inspiration and joy from thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, and walking in the light of his Gospel.

O God who revealest thyself to thy people and hast sounded again in our hearing this day thy divine and saving oracles; quicken us inwardly to understand, remember and approve what we have heard, and so fortify our wills to steadfast obedience that we may not be hearers only of the truth but doers also of good works, having our lives blameless and our conversation without guile, and serving our brethren after the example of many wise and holy men and of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Almighty and most gracious Father who this day hast given thy servants to remember the Lord Jesus in the Sacrament of the Supper; grant that that mind which was in him may also be so formed in us that we may take upon us the burdens and duties which have been appointed us and follow in his steps, bearing contradiction patiently, subduing in ourselves every lawless and guilty desire, setting ourselves steadfastly against every evil work,

and by our willing services and sacrifices bringing comfort and hope to those who are distressed; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Almighty God who didst send thy Son Jesus our Lord to learn by experience the things we suffer; grant that we in the full assurance of faith may follow the way of goodness, charity and self-denial, subduing our desires to thy wisdom, and notwithstanding whatsoever opposition may arise, holding fast the hope of glory and immortality; through the constant inspiration and help of the same our Saviour Jesus Christ.

O God who alone dost sustain thy servants in weariness, and alone canst reconcile the sad and disappointed to thy will; in all our needs and distresses grant us such comfort and such knowledge of thy faithfulness that our many and grievous afflictions may seem to us light and but for a moment and, because our hearts are set upon the things which thou approvest, may accomplish in us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God who besettest us behind and before, and for our perfecting didst send thy Son to be in his Gospel a light on our path, and through his living presence a ready help in every difficulty; grant that we may trust him at all times and follow him whithersoever he may lead.

SCRIPTURE FOR USE IN THE VISITATION OF THE SICK

Isaiah xi. 2-5; xii.; xxv. 1, 4, 8, 9; xxvi. 1-9; xl. 1-8, 11, 28-31; xli. 10; xlii. 1-7, 16; xliii. 1-3a; xliv. 22, 23; xlv. 9, 22, 23; l. 9, 10; li. 6-8, 11-13; liii.; lv. 1-3a, 6-12; lvii. 15; lix. 1-2, 4, 8, 16, 17, 20, 21; lxi. 1-3, 10, 11; lxiii. 9, 15, 16.

Jeremiah xxxi. 33b-34. Lamentations iii. 22-26, 31-33, 40, 41

Matthew v. 3-10; vii. 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 21; x. 29-31, 37-39; xi. 28-30.

Luke xv.; xviii. 10-14; xxi. 1-4.

John xiv. 1-4, 6, 15-21, 25-31; xv. 12-16.

Romans v. 1-11; vii. 18-25; viii. 1-4, 18, 19, 22-39.

2 Corin. iv. 17-v. 1. Hebrews xii. 1-8. 1 John iii. 1-7. iv. 7-21. Revelation vii. 13-17; xxi. 1-4.

"As One that comforteth the Mourners"

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

(Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. The

days of our years are threescore years and ten, and if by reason of strength they bé fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow, for it is soon cut off and we fly away).

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou passest through fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy saviour. Cast thy burden upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart. and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there ye may be also. I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

What are these which are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? These are they which came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore

are they before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

"Out of the Depths"

Have mercy upon me, for I am in distress. My life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing. My strength faileth. I am like a broken vessel. O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, but find no rest. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy, remember thou me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; O bring thou me out of my distresses. Reproach hath broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness: for I looked for some to take pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. I am poor and needy; make haste unto me, O God; thou art my help and my deliverer; O Lord, make no tarrying. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake. Thy way, O Lord, is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. O spare me that I may recover strength before I go hence and be no more.

I am the true vine and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh it away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he cleanseth it, that it may bear more fruit. Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall

be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. While he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And his father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry: for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to comfort all that mourn, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. O love the Lord, ye his saints: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall

I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? In the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me: he shall set me up upon a rock.

Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee. Thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

. . . . . .

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. The mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed. Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, yet with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and the heart of the contrite ones.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

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